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[Written for the Dollar Newspaper—Philada.]

THE VOICES OF THE NIGHT.

BY WM. G. MEACHEM.

I.

The solemn hour of night is in the skies,
And nature in her shuttered chamber lies
Dreaming of scenes that filled up yesterday,
Or of the scenes the morrow shall display.
The wearying discord of the day is stilled,
And height and depth with breathless silence filled,
Save when the lonely voices of the hour
Sound, one by one, with melancholy power
Along night's dreary shore.

II.

From out her covert in the distant wood
The wakeful parent of the owlish brood,
At measured intervals, in long drawn notes,
Utters the voices of her mournful thoughts.
Like to the tramp funereal on its way
Deep in the night to hide departed day,
These solemn hootings of this solemn bird
By fixed and reverential ears are heard,
Attuned to sad accord.

III.

Upon the margin of the slough the frog,
Or perched upon some prostrate, mouldering log,
Sends to the circuit of the vaulted sky
His harsh, cacophonous, lugubrious cry.
With lengthened interspace the raucous strain
Smites the averted ear again, again,
Till, wearied by the unfriendly blows
So oft repeated, it invites repose
Its aching wounds to close.

IV.

The tree-toad joins the concert of the night
And sings his role with a persistent might.
The cricket chirps within his grassy lair
And cleaves with sharp accent the heavy air.
The lone cicada lends a vocal part
And cuts the ear with lancinating smart.
The bat comes wheeling with her outstretched wings,
Evoking from her feathery alar strings
Soft, breezy murmurings.

V.

The nightingale with sweet, melodious song
Binds all the concert with a silver thong.
The sense, by insect, reptile's discord jarred
And by the owl's lugubrious wailings scared,
Beneath the touch of Philomela's strain,
As soft as droppings of the rosoid rain,
Is soothed and feels a pensive pleasure now
Which summons from their deep dug grave below
The memories we know.

VI.

But sweeter than the nightingale's sweet song,
Which binds the concert with a silver thong,
Is that loved voice which comes from memory's deep
To wake the strains my fond affection keep.
O'er all the concert of this silent hour
My Philomela's voice asserts its power.
The melody that bids the night to stay,
Is the remembrance of the absent fay,
Awake far, far away.

Warsaw, July 22d, 1861.

[Written for the Dollar Newspaper—Philada.]

WEDDED.

BY W. E. KNOWLES.

Oh! is not ours a happy lot
To be united, love, forever?
Then whether we shall live or not,
No adverse destiny can sever.

Wherever one may chance to go,
That one shall only lead the other,
Even it it shall lead, we know,
Away from father, home, and mother.

Living and loving, then the same,
Come what there will of joy or sorrow;
And for each day of darkness claim
A brighter day upon the morrow.

Wilton, N. Y., 1862.

AN ORIGINAL NOVELETTE.

VIOLA VENNOND;
OR, LIFE ON THE BORDER.

WRITTEN FOR THE DOLLAR NEWSPAPER—PHILADA.

BY EDWARD S. ELLIS, ESQ.

CHAPTER I.

THE TRAPPER.

"His was a noble spirit, rough,
But generous, and brave and kind."

The noonday sun was pouring its full tide of fiery rays upon the broad rolling prairie, and the blazing air was quivering with the intense heat of a summer day, while the blue sky was not specked by a single cloud. Far away, as far as the eye could reach, the glistening plain stretched in regular monotonous swells, unrelieved save here and there by some black, stunted tree or jagged rock; or perhaps now and then an emerald grove of trees met the eye like a refreshing oasis in the desert. The earth had long been baked and scorched in the withering rays, and only at intervals the sparse blades of buffalo grass were seen. It seemed as if the whole face of nature was blasted by some deadly sirocco or simoom.

The section of country to which we refer is now comprehended in what is termed Nebraska Territory, and the portion in the neighborhood of the spur of the Rocky Mountains, termed the "Black Hills," is the one of which we shall more particularly speak. Although but comparatively a few years since, it was rarely visited by any whites, except a few trappers and hunters. Now and then some adventurous one pierced its wilds with these daring spirits, but only at rare intervals indeed. The Indians held nearly undisputed possession of this territory, and it was, in fact, but one great hunting-ground. Herds of buffaloes, numbering thousands and tens of thousands, thundered over its vast bosom; innumerable droves of horses galloped in unrestrained freedom over its face, and in the plentiful streams the beaver and otter flourished with little fear of molestation from the white man. The whole North west was the unexplored Paradise of the aborigines of the continent.

As has been said, the only whites who trod this region were the daring trappers and hunters, who, indeed, differed little in their customs and lives from the savages themselves. They generally travelled in bodies numbering from two or three to a dozen perhaps; and now and then an eccentric and fearless trapper might be found who braved the perils of the wilderness alone, and journeyed hundreds of miles with his peltries, with no companion but his horse and faithful rifle.

Although the prairie presented as cheerless and barren appearance at this time as the desert, yet there were seasons when it seemed another country—when it was but one romantic ocean of verdure and roses, and the air was heavy with the perfumes of millions of wild flowers that bloomed and lived in the genial sunshine. For mile after mile the ground was covered with the thick velvet of green, in which the most varied animal life grew in myriads.

It was about noon of the suffocating day of which we have spoken, that a horseman was travelling over the prairie. He and his animal were the only signs of life that met the eye, and they together might have been easily mistaken for some stationary object, so slow and tedious was their course. The rider was a young man of not over twenty or twenty-five years of age, and his well-proportioned frame showed that, although in all probability a stranger in these parts, he was yet no ordinary hunter. He was attired in the usual hunting frock and leggins, and wore a closely-fitting cap of fur. At his waist the handles of several knives protruded, and a long, polished rifle rested across the saddle in front of him. His black hair, escaping from his cap, hung loosely upon his shoulders, giving him at times a strange and picturesque wildness. His features and complexion were fair, yet the latter was considerably bronzed from his constant exposure to all kinds of weather. His dark, hazel eyes were now gazing vacantly at the horizon in front of him, and his mind was lost in a deep waudering that nearly excluded all external objects from his view. His horse was a diminutive specimen of the Canadian breed, and although capable of bearing much more fatigue and labor than ordinary ones, yet he now gave palpable signs of weariness. His dappled haunches glistened in the sun's fiery rays like polished ebony, while the foam and froth was constantly dripping from beneath the saddle, as he patiently and slowly plodded forward. His hoofs clamping upon the hardened earth, the dry cracking of the saddle and the hurried breathing of the animal, were the only sounds that disturbed the oppressive silence that held reign. Such an appearance did George Summerfield present as he was journeying over the prairie.

"Heavens!" exclaimed he, collecting his thoughts and gazing about him, "when will this horrid scene change? Here I have been travelling since daylight, over this dreadful ocean of earth, and not a solitary island has yet appeared. I am half tortured to death with thirst, while poor Ned here is suffering still more. Have patience, Ned," he added, fondly patting the horse upon the neck. The animal gave a faint whinney, but he was indeed suffering more than his master.

"Curses on those infernal fellows," muttered he, "I doubt whether I shall ever see their ugly faces again, and a precious pretty scrape I have gotten myself in. Two or three thousands of miles from home, with no neighbors but the cowardly Indians, who, I doubt not, would be glad to make my acquaintance. But who, in the name of all the fates and furies, must I blame but myself for this contemptible state of affairs? If I had not wandered off on that confounded hunt, I should have had respectable company, and company, too, which probably will soon make its value felt."

Again he relapsed into that thoughtful silence in which we first found him, and his horse still continued his slow walk over the dusty earth. This was continued for a few miles more, when he again broke out:

"By the powers, Ned, this must last long! I would gladly drain a mud-puddle, should I find it, and I see that you are suffering as much, and, if possible, even more than I am. Heavens! what a fate this would be, out on this baking prairie to be tortured to death by this consuming thirst. God avert such a terrible death!"

The horse stopped now and then to pluck the yellow blades of grass, and at last turned to lick the froth from his steaming sides. Summerfield restrained him.

"Don't do that, Ned, though God knows that you are suffering! It will only aggravate your thirst the more."

The animal ceased, and his rider rose in his stirrups and anxiously swept the horizon. It was growing late in the afternoon, and he began to be alarmed for himself. He felt sure that he should die unless he soon discovered water, and besides this his heart bled for his suffering animal. Great as was Summerfield's thirst, he would have shared a pint of water with his horse at that moment.

Suddenly, as he gazed a little to his right, his eye flashed, and he started.

"Thank Heaven, there's a sail in this infernal ocean, and close at hand too!" he exclaimed, as his eye rested upon the mellow outlines of a grove of trees in the distance.

"Look, Ned!" he exclaimed in joy, "there's hope for you!"

The animal raised his head, and, as the welcome sight met his view, he seemed to fully comprehend the hopeful state of things. He pricked his ears, gave a joyous neigh, and immediately broke into an easy canter.

What could have prevented me from seeing those trees before? They must have been in sight for the last half hour, while Ned and I have almost given up in despair. Relief is close at hand."

Summerfield, although quite an experienced hunter, had however sadly miscalculated the distance. The trees were full twice as far as they appeared, and in his impatient haste to reach them, the time seemed interminable. Distance is as deceptive upon the prairie as upon the sea, and as it takes a true sailor to calculate it upon the one, so it requires an experienced hunter to measure it upon the other.

It was full an hour before he approached near enough to distinguish the branches of the different trees; and, as he saw their fresh and blooming appearance, he felt sure that such a thing could not exist unless the roots were well supplied with water.

"And yet," he muttered, as the sickening thought presented itself, "suppose that I should be disappointed, what a death awaits me? I never could leave the spot, and poor Ned would die immediately."

As he rapidly approached the place, his anxiety became fearfully intense. He listened to hear the noise of running water, and when he heard it not, despite himself, an awful doubt would enter his mind. His horse's instinct, however, was infallible; and, as the latter quickened his pace and ascended the swell upon the edge of the grove, a bright, sparkling stream of water was seen gushing slowly along within a few feet of him.

With a shout, he sprang from his horse, and they simultaneously leaped into the refreshing element. As he quaffed the cool and refreshing fluid, he was fairly delirious with joy. It seemed that a death by drowning was the greatest bliss that a mortal could be given, and he rolled and covered himself with the limpid water, and was really insane with his excess of pleasure.

Summerfield, however, soon satisfied his desires, and, like an ordinary human being, laughed at his own ridiculous manifestations.

"Hold on, Ned," said he, "it won't do for you to drink so much at first. It is dangerous, and you must be restrained."

So saying, he led his horse from the water, upon the swell, and holding his rein, gazed out upon the prairie. The sun was now low in the heavens, and the air was becoming cooler and more tolerable. He saw no sign of animal life, and was about to turn and utter an exclamation to his horse, when the sharp crack of a rifle burst from the grove, and a bullet whizzed within a half-inch of his eyes!

"Heavens! where did that come from? That was a close run!" ejaculated Summerfield, cocking his rifle and gazing toward the grove in the hope of seeing his enemy. But no form was visible, and he began to feel rather uneasy in his situation. After waiting a few moments, he lowered his rifle, and at the same instant another was discharged, and as a slight puff of wind struck his face, one of his black curls dropped to his feet, severed by the leaden messenger. He turned quickly, and saw a thin wreath of smoke slowly rising from the edge of the grove.

"There's a venture at any rate!" said he, hastily discharging his rifle at the point where he supposed was his hidden foe.

As he commenced reloading, he saw the undergrowth become agitated, and the next instant a large, powerful hunter stepped forth in full view. Summerfield gazed at him a moment or two with mixed wonder and admiration. His form was one of the most noble and commanding that he had ever seen. His small eyes glistened beneath his shaggy, projecting brows, and seemed ever restless with excitement. His jetty black beard, although long and uncombed, had yet an appearance of harmony with the rest of his dress. He was over six feet in height, and there was not a portion of his body but what corresponded with the rest. As he moved, the swelling ridges of muscles showed what terrible strength was concentrated in his frame. Yet he was graceful, and, when occasion required, was as lightning-like in his movements as the famished panther. His fine Roman nose, and small, restless gray eyes would have shown any one his temperament.

His dress was similar to Summerfield's, save that it appeared to be made more for strength and durability. In his left hand, he held a long, formidable-looking rifle, whose barrel glistened and shone in the sun's departing rays as he slowly changed its position. The handle of a finely-carved scalping-knife was visible, and, take him all in all, the hunter was a man whose ill will was dangerous to any mortal.

"It seems to me," said Summerfield, "that you are rather reckless with your shots. You made me wink rather suddenly a short time since."

"Wal, stranger, I aint a feller what makes many mis-shots. Ef I'd a mind, you'd a went under 'fore now."

"I presume so; but will you allow me to inquire your object in thus sending your shots so close to me? I can tell you they caused me no little surprise and alarm, for I was fully conscious that I was at the mercy of *some* one."

"Wal, stranger, that byer's the manner I generally says 'How'd you do?' when I come across folks what I doesn't know."

"A rather peculiar fashion of yours."

"It's the one I allers uses, and what I allers ca'culate to. What mought yer handle be, stranger?"

"Summerfield—George Summerfield is my name. Now, I suppose that you will have no objections to giving me yours?"

"How come you to be trampin' out in these parts?"

"I left the States some weeks ago in company with a number of friends, with the intention of accompanying them upon a trapping expedition. Yesterday, in the excitement of a chase, I lost them altogether, and have not seen a sign of them since, and have almost despaired of ever seeing them again."

"Yer a green one, no mistake, in these parts."

"*I have been here before*, and am not an unexperienced hunter, although I am yet quite young. I have been in several brushes with Indians, and trust that I am not what, upon further acquaintance, you will term *green*. But, however, my good friend, allow me to again inquire your name?"

"I'm known in these parts by the name o Vic Vannoven."

"I have heard you spoken of as a great hunter and trapper that—"

"Thar, that'll do. Just hold on with that stuff."

"Why, Mr—"

"Hold on agin," exclaimed the hunter, with an angry gesture. "I don't owa that last handle. Jus please to drap it altogether when I'm spoken to, and never mind about stuffin' me with that other stuff. It goes agin my stummick altogether."

"Well, Vic, then, I have heard of you before, and assure you that I am glad to meet you. I don't feel entirely safe in this section with no companion but my horse. I suppose that you are alone?"

"I haint got no *chaps* hangin' round me, but Polly, here, is worth a dozen. When she barks she bites; and I've got Porkypine out here that sleeps with me every night, and us three makes as big a company as I wants."

"Then I suppose you would rather be freed from my society?"

"Wal, Somefield, ef yer death on redskins, and that Polly of yourn 'll drop one without yer touchin' it, and ef yer aint afraid of gittin' yer ha'r lifted, and don't mind sleepin' out in a snow-storm, and aint womanish, why hyer's a feller what'll stick to you."

"Then we are friends henceforth and forever. Now that I have your company, I do not feel the loss of my friends so much, although, if possible, I must soon see them."

"Whar was it back that you left 'em?"

"I have no idea; but, judging from the distance that I have travelled, I should suppose it somewhere in the neighborhood of forty miles."

"What kind of lookin' place mought it be whar you seen 'em last?"

"I remember that it was at the junction of two streams, near a large grove of timber—"

"I knows the spot, and now am purty sartain that yer *green*; coz why, you've been trampin' your old hoss to death to find 'em, and they haint been more'n a dozen miles off neither."

"Why, how can that be, when I have travelled a much greater distance?"

"Coz you've been trampin' all *'round it* without comin' to the pint, and ef yer'd had yer eyes open you'd have seen it too."

"Can we reach them to night then?"

"We'll see; but don't let us stand here talkin' when yer hoss is wanderin' off."

Summerfield turned and saw that his animal had strayed quite a distance down the stream, tempted by the luxuriant grass that lined its edges. He gave him but a word, when he returned and remained but a short distance, while he himself rejoined the hunter, and together they entered the grove. After proceeding a short distance, they came upon the horse of Vannoven, which was contentedly plucking the grass with which the grove was carpeted.

"Hyer, Porkypine, is a feller what wants to cultivate yer acquaintance."

The horse raised his head, and seemed to fully understand that he was addressed, and the look that he gave Summerfield convinced him that his words were also fully comprehended.

"Somefield, it's gittin' nigh onto my feedin' time, and I s'pose you wouldn't mind helpin'. 'Pears to me that yer rags must set nice, bein' you've been washin' 'em with such pains," said the hunter, with a half-mischievous and half contemptuous expression of his countenance.

"That *was* a foolish piece of business," returned Summerfield, blushing with shame at the weakness which he had manifested, "but," added he, "I was perfectly insane with the thirst that was burning me up. Heavens! I never wish such an experience again."

"Wagh! you'll be more'n glad of you don't. Why, you, I've seen the time when I had to chaw all the bullets I had to save my carcass, after goin' fur *days* without seein' a drop. There are some spots on this perarie whar, at times, you've got to make a long tramp afore you git sight of it. Howsumever, I never manage to lose my reckonin' now-a-days, and either Porkypine or me knows whar to find it."

The shades of night were now rapidly settling over the prairie, and the grove had already become dark and gloomy. Vannoven commenced making preparations for a fire, while Summerfield returned to picket his horse for the night. This done, he again returned to his newly-made friend. He had a bright fire burning and crackling, and yet so concealed and screened that it could not be seen from any point in the grove, until directly upon it. A huge piece of meat was spitting and frying over the blaze, while the hunter was reclining upon the ground and leisurely watching it. As Summerfield approached he arose, and removing the meat, severed it into two equal portions, and tossing him one, remarked:

"Thar's the last of one of the finest buffiers I ever dropped."

Summerfield, like a true hunter, relished the steaming meat, and devoured it without the least ceremony or further preparation. This hearty meal was partaken in silence.

The hunter arose, and scattering the brands, so as to extinguish the fire, again seated himself upon the ground.

"Do you not fear the approach of an enemy during the night?" asked Summerfield.

"Not much. I'd like to see the red what could git near me while I's 'sleep, without Porky smellin' him; and me and Porky has no secrets," added the hunter, with pride.

"Do you generally wander alone over this dangerous country?"

"I don't know what you mean by *alone*; but if you mean fellers, why I kin tell you I haint had much company fur the last ten year."

"May I be allowed to inquire your reasons for leading such a strange life?" asked Summerfield, beginning to feel an interest in him.

"It would take too long. Not now," he returned, relapsing into a thoughtful silence, which Summerfield thought it best not to disturb.

CHAPTER II.

THE TRAPPERS.

"O'er prairies, green and fair,
We're galloping, galloping on;
As free as free as air,
We're galloping, galloping on;
Where'er we go no bounds arise,
Except the blue and boundless skies,
We're galloping, galloping on"

A beautiful night settled slowly over the prairie. The air seemed to possess an unnatural brilliancy and clearness, and the countless millions of stars glittered in glorious splendor. The Pleiades, Orion, and other constellations, blazed in wondrous strength and brightness, and the whole canopy of heaven had a gorgeous magnificence that was indeed wonderful.

Nothing but the almost inaudible murmuring of the streamlet, as it rippled over its bed, could be heard, save now and then the dull stamp of the horses, as they changed their position. At intervals, a slight gush or breath of wind moved the tree-tops, and gently swayed the branches, and then everything relapsed again into the usual deep silence.

Summerfield lay on his back, gazing in rapt wonder and admiration upon the spangled vault above him. He saw the constellations slowly circle through the heavens, and watched their progress through the openings in the tree-tops, until their swaying confused him, and he let his mind wander off upon a sort of dreamy, aimless journey, forgetting for a time his situation and new-made friend.

But occasionally there were stronger and more fitful puffs, repeated at shorter intervals; and upon gazing upward through the branches, he observed that the stars were gradually becoming obscured, and heavy and dark clouds were rolling tumultuously through the heavens. Although the heat of the day had been suffocating, it was now uncomfortably chilly, and was growing more so each moment.

Suddenly, several faint flashes illumined the sky, and presently the rumbling peals reverberated overhead.

"This is goin' to be a reglar snorter," remarked the hunter, quietly.

"That's certain. See how the branches are swaying! There it comes!"

As he spoke, the sky opened like one sheet of fire, and almost simultaneously with it came a crash of thunder that made the prairie tremble for miles around. Its awful voice, slowly rolling away through the heavens, sounded like the rumbling of chariot wheels; and when the plain was lightened up and shone out with sudden and vivid distinctness, the falling rain glittered like the spears of an innumerable army. Again and again, with appalling rapidity, came the terrific bursts of thunder, and the rain rattled like hailstones through the branches overhead. Summerfield had never before witnessed such an awful storm, and for awhile was overcome by feelings of awe and sublimity. He was about to speak, when the sky flamed out again in one blaze of shattered fire, and the trapper yelled to him:

"Kiver up an' snooze, greeny, or you mought git wet!"

He wisely took the warning, and was not long in stowing himself away in his impenetrable blanket. Thus he lay and listened to the storm, which was raging at its greatest height. Huge spouts of rain were shooting down through the trees like the rattle of musketry, while the bellowing thunder resembled the cannonading of some mighty army. As it paused, at intervals, the roar of the brook, now a rushing torrent, could be distinctly heard, and the wind made mournful music through the limbs, bending with water.

The fall of the rain lasted but a short time, and Summerfield uncovered his face and gazed about him. All was of an inky blackness save when the lightning darted through the grove. Then the wet trunks glistened coldly, and the water shone with a glittering light; and when some gust of wind, stronger than usual, swayed the trees, they sent down for a second a perfect deluge of water.

The storm was as short as it was fierce. In a half hour more not a drop of water was falling, and only a faint flash of lightning could be seen at intervals. Summerfield, now that the deafening tumult around him had ceased, fell into a deep and dreamless sleep. This had lasted about an hour, when he was aroused by feeling a jerk at his blanket. He looked around but saw nothing in the darkness.

"What's the matter?" he asked, in a whisper.

"—sh! keep quiet," returned the hunter, in the same tone.

"Any trouble?"

"I'm 'fraid so. Injins a' about, sure."

"What! in the grove here?"

"Yas, cuss it, yas; you ain't see 'are you?"

"Well, I don't feel perfectly [illegible] I can assure you, if such is the case."

"Wal, jist now keep quiet like, and I'll soon see. I thort I'd let you know my 'spishions, 'cause ef I didn't, you mought git into a muss without knowin' it. That goes Porkey again!"

As he spoke, Summerfield heard his horse give a faint whinney and a stamp that convinced him that the trapper's suspicions were well grounded.

"Jest keep docile now," admonished the trapper as he stole away.

He crept carefully over the moist earth, and in a few minutes reached his horse.

"What's up, Porkey?" he asked, rising and placing his head close to his ear as he spoke. The animal gave another whinney, and, dark as it was, Vannoven saw a body glide out of sight in the darkness. Quick as thought, he sprang behind a tree, and demanded in a loud and imperative tone—

"White or red?"

In a second came the answer—

"White. If that ain't Vic Vannoven then skin me!"

"That you, Jim!" queried the hunter in turn, as the familiar voice struck his ear. "Come out here and show yer carcass."

The next minute the two hunters met with genuine and unfeigned pleasure.

"What the dickens yer doin' here?" demanded Vic, good humoredly.

"And what *you* doin' here?" asked the other, in turn.

"Why don't you ax me, Jim Wandaught, what I'm allers doin' in these parts. Yer knows well 'nough. I've bin trampin' 'round, and happened to drop down hyer to day, and seein' as how thar's gwine to be a reglar ring-tailed roarer of a storm, why, thinks I, ole Vic, yer'd better stick hyer till it's over; and so I squatted till you come a nosin' 'round."

"Wal, me'n Sam, an' 'nother nigger war out when we seen the blow gittin ready, and made tracks fur this place, but war catched afore we got to it. Howsumever, that didn't matter, as we toted on till we got purty near here, when I 'cluded to take a look at things afore comin' here; coz, you know, thar mought be reds about. I didn't know what to make of yer hoss, coz he smelt me afore I did him, though I smelt sunkthin' that I war purty sure war you, Vic, and it warn't no 'fumery to brag on neither, I can tell yer. I 'cluded, as how thar war signs 'bout, and war just gwine back to let 'em know it, when you come 'round."

"Didn't yer have anybody with yer 'cept Sam an' tuther chap?"

"Yes; thar war a chap what called himself Somerfield—a kindy foolish feller like, you know; one o' these from the States that don't know nothin', an' thinks as how he knows everything thar is to be knowed, and summat more too."

"That's what I thort of him. He come 'round here 'while ago, and bein' kindy clever, I let 'im sleep in my bed with me."

"In your bed? Wagh! wagh!"

"Yas; in my bed. Don't yer know nothin', Jim? In the woods hyer, I mean; that's my bed. He's *green*!"

"Yes; he wanted to come so bad that I couldn't help it, 'cause I's 'fraid he mought boo hoo himself to death of I left him behind. He's a greeny; no mistake."

These compliments to Summerfield were spoken in a tone loud enough for him to hear, and, as may be supposed, there was not much danger of his endeavoring to impress his companions with any exalted ideas of his own prowess and knowledge of border life.

Pretending to have just heard them, he approached—

"Can it be possible, Jim, that you are here? Why, I feared that we had parted company for a long time."

"Hello, hoss; so I thort. Whar'd you come from?"

"Hasn't Vic told how we became acquainted?"

"He said sunkthin' 'bout it, but didn't give me none the particlers. How was it?"

In a few moments a satisfactory explanation was given, and Jim added—

"I must go lotch Sam and Crooked Pegs—the all-firedest fool that ever tramped these parts."

"Scar't easy?" queried Vic.

"Yeas; complains of narvousness."

"Sposen we try his narves?"

"Good idee. Jest look out and we'll have tall times."

Summerfield soon divined their intention, and although he would have preferred to have them lay it aside, yet he deemed it not advisable, under the circumstances, to interfere.

In the course of half an hour the voices of the approaching ones could be heard, and, above all, that of Seth's.

"This is what I call beautiful! Every step I take the water squishes clean up to my back, and like as not we'll have to sleep under several inches."

There was a grumbling reply from some one, and instantly Seth resumed—

"Whew! I believe that hole goes through to tother side. Least ways, I lacked several feet of touching bottom."

For a few seconds nothing was heard but the splashing of their feet as they plodded forward. At the end of that time, however, Seth again commenced—

"Like as not we can't start a fire! That'll be fine, won't it? and then, just to think, there might be a thousand Engins hid in these trees to pounce out on us and make more trouble."

For the space of half a minute, or possibly three-quarters, they approached without speaking, when Seth again broke out, as he fell upon his hands and knees—

"It's mysterious—certainly mysterious in the highest degree how I must get all the falls and mishaps."

At this point they reached the edge of the grove, and Jim, apparently by accident, ran against one of the trees, bringing down a copious shower upon them.

"O don't! Murder! I'm soaked clean through. I——"

Further utterance was drowned in a deafening yell, followed instantly by several bright flashes, and sharp reports of rifles, and simultaneously Seth's companions shouted together—

"Indians!"

Seth for a few seconds was completely bewildered; then, as he began to comprehend matters, his feet were suddenly struck from under him, and he fell flatly upon his face in a pool of water.

"Fire and everything else!" he shouted, springing nimbly to his feet and closing in with Vannoven. Being considerably frightened, it required considerable use of the trapper's strength before he could be held to the earth. At last he throttled him and drew the edge of his knife across his throat.

"See here; 'pears to me, you foolish old fellow," he remarked, ceasing his writhings and leisurely stretching out his limbs; "you don't suppose I'm an Engin, do you? Why, I ain't."

"So you ain't," said the trapper, as though a sudden truth had dawned upon him, removing his knees at the same time and permitting him to rise.

It required some ten or fifteen minutes before matters were understood and fully adjusted. Then followed the hearty laugh, although Seth complained considerably of the uncomfortable feeling produced by lying with his body half immersed in mud and water when Vannoven was astride of him.

After a half hour's work and an immense sight of grumbling, and one or two wicked oaths by way of clinching it, a fire was kindled. The fuel collected had been so thoroughly seasoned and baked in the sun, that, after starting it, it burned vigorously, and with a pleasant, cheerful glow that imparted warmth and good nature to all—all but *one*.

And, before proceeding further, we will introduce all of the characters referred to, by the light of this fire. Each is to perform an important part in our story.

George Summerfield of ——, Missouri, has been referred to, and with a remark or two we will let him pass. He was the son of wealthy parents who died in his childhood, leaving him with no relation except a sister a few years younger than himself. He was naturally of a roving, careless disposition, and had only entered college to gratify a wish that his father had expressed upon his death-bed. After he graduated, he returned home, and spent a year in doing nothing in particular but reading and hunting. The next year he spent in travelling with his sister over the Atlantic States, and returned home again without any definite object in view. One morning, when at breakfast, he told his sister he guessed he would take a tramp among the Indians, just for the fun of the thing; and filling his pockets with cakes, jerking his hat over his eyes, he snatched a hasty kiss, ran out of the house, hurried to Independence, gave a trapper a hundred dollars to permit him to accompany him, and the next day he was out on the prairies, half-galled to death on an old pack-horse! He determined to brave it out like a hero, however, and he did. He was gone about nine months, and was given a good taste of wild adventure on the Northern trapping grounds.

After this he remained at home for five or six months, when he determined to make one more journey—a journey that should be his final one. And for this he was wise enough to make some preparation. He purchased his own horse and took Seth along with him, and at Independence he selected his own trapper—Jim Wandaught—a selection that he never regretted. As might be supposed, his sister opposed his entire determination; but he succeeded in gaining her consent, and with a light heart he bid good bye to his native State and turned his face toward the great prairies of the Far West.

Victor Vannoven was both a trapper and guide, although for the last year or two he had not served in the latter capacity and preferred to be only the former. Most of his life had been spent upon the prairies. He said he had no brothers, sisters, or parents, or if he had them did not know them. For a number of years he had made most of his trapping journeys with no companion but his horse. Once or twice he and Wandaught had gone in company, but he generally preferred to be alone, and sometimes he would be gone for two years at a time.

He was generally reserved and distant toward strangers, and his nature was never understood until a long companionship had gained his friendship; and as we intend to make a companion of him, we shall omit a disquisition at present upon his many failures and virtues, and leave them to develope themselves as our acquaintance with him progresses.

Jim Wandaught was a trapper, born in St. Joseph, Missouri, and was now about thirty years of age. He was rather below the medium stature, with a fine, compact frame, as agile and powerful as the panther. He always wore a cap that came down to his eyebrows, and fitted so closely that, at a short distance, it might easily be supposed that he had no covering at all upon his head. His eyes were of a light gray, and their power was so wonderful and famous that many of his acquaintances termed him "Eagle Eyes." His hair was of dark grizzled color, and so short that it was rarely seen except when his cap was removed. No beard graced his face except a long, yellow tuft upon his chin, the rest being as smooth as an infant's. His nose was slightly Roman and rather small; he had a fine set of teeth, which were always visible, as he ever wore a smile, or a half smile rather; for he possessed the peculiarity that many persons have of rarely using more than one side of their mouths when they wish to indulge in a silent laugh. He was good-natured, always communicative, and rarely taking offence at a slight or intended insult. He had experienced an incredible number of hair-breadth escapes and wild adventures, and his fund of anecdote was exhaustless. He was frank, open-hearted, and a man that could never be a hypocrite. He possessed a rifle of exactly his own length, from which he was never known to be separated, and whose qualities he could never laud too highly. There were many points of resemblance between him and Vannoven. He did not possess the great strength and majestic form of the latter, but he was more fleet of foot, and his nature lay more upon the surface; it could be seen at once.

Seth Potter, as the reader has probably surmised, was a companion of Summerfield, whose father had adopted and reared him. He was over six feet in height, very lank and cadaverous, and with a form excessively crooked. His head and neck projected forward, and when he stood, as was his custom, with his arms folded behind him, his knees bent backward, so that his legs had the appearance of half a string bows, his whole body resembled the letter S. His features were rather pleasant than otherwise, having a mild, blue eye, and an ingenuous, half-comical expression. His nose was very long, and his prominent cheek-bones prevented every one except himself from supposing he had a right to lay claim to any good looks. His hair was long and yellow, his limbs long and bony, and his whole appearance that of a wiry, nervous and ungainly person; yet there were few men of the West who could get over so much ground in so little time as could he. Give him rough, uneven surface, and there was not an Indian but what he could easily overtake. Give him wind lasted.

Sam Redzel had been Wandaught's companion for a year or two, and was as different in every respect as could possibly be imagined. He was somewhat taller; he had fiery red hair, whiskers of the same hue, that grew in patches on his cicatrized face; an eye that glittered like a coiled black snake underneath his shaggy eyebrows. He was taciturn and sullen, often refusing to answer a direct question. The sight of one eye had been destroyed, and being of a milk-white color, and always half open, it rendered his appearance more repulsive than it would have otherwise been. He had a habit of leering with his one eye, and of always contracting his brows, that gave one the idea that he possessed a hidden, deceitful nature. Whatever might be his character, it was plain that it possessed not half the good qualities of either Vannoven or Wandaught.

CHAPTER III.

STORIES AROUND THE CAMP FIRE.

"And as the storm raged loud and higher,
We gathered round the blazing fire"

The fire burned brighter and brighter, and as it extended through the grove, it diffused a pleasant, congenial feeling among all the hunters around, with the exception, of course, of Redzel. All spread their thick, impenetrable blankets upon the wet sward, and seating themselves upon them, prepared to indulge their inveterate smoking propensities. The three trappers each produced a short, black stump of a pipe, which they laid upon the ground beside them, and then drew from some hidden pocket an enormous plug of tobacco, seemingly as hard and unyielding as iron. From this they cut a few splinters, which, after being vigorously rubbed between both palms, were duly packed into the pipe. Then Wandaught snatched a blazing coal, which, after dancing nervously from one hand to the other, he dexterously dropped upon the tobacco in the bowl, and commenced pulling at the pipe. Every muscle of the face and neck were visible as he strained and smacked his lips, and crossed his eyes in gazing anxiously at the faint smoke that issued from his mouth. At last he, with the others, was rewarded with success, and they relapsed into a sluggish, listless attitude, and gave themselves up to their exquisite enjoyment. Neither Summerfield nor Seth was given to this habit, and they contented themselves with merely gazing at the others, as their features now and then were visible through the clouds of smoke that nearly enveloped them.

Wandaught was reclining on his elbow, staring vacantly at the burning embers before him, and now and then giving vent to the smoke, first through one corner of the mouth and then through the other. Thus he sat for nearly an hour without stirring the least or removing the abstract look of his eye from vacancy. Suddenly his fine eyes lit up with animation, and as he arose to the sitting position, he turned laughingly towards the others and asked:

"Boys, I never told yer 'bout a time I once had in one o' these 'ere scrapes?"

"No, no, less hear it," answered Seth, hitching nearer to him. Redzel paid no attention to it, while Vannoven merely raised his eyes and let them sink again without removing his pipe.

"I should be glad to hear a good story at this time," added Summerfield.

"Oh! I can't tell no story," returned the trapper.

The truth was, he possessed the peculiarity that every great story-teller has. He was fully conscious of his exhaustless fund of incidents and adventures, and believed that he had a talent for rehearsing them; but he did love to be urged and coaxed, until all hope was given over, when he would consent with a good-humored smile of reluctance.

"Come, let us hear it. There is no need of waiting," repeated Summerfield.

"Oh no," rejoined the trapper, slowly, gazing with a smile at the fire. "Oh, no; I can't tell no story good for nothing."

"Well, let us have what you *can* give."

Vannoven and Redzel had arisen and laid aside their pipes, and the latter growled, as he resumed his reclining position:

"Come, Sam, don't go ter spinnin' none o' yer yarns here now. I've heard 'nough of 'em."

"Yas, go ahead," said Vannoven, "and p'raps I'll foller yer when you gets through, pervidin' it's afore snoozin' time."

"He can't tell nothin' yer'd want to hear," added Redzel.

"Wal, if I must, I must," said Wandaught, good-naturedly and complacently. And shifting his position, filling his pipe, and stirring the fire, he at last commenced:

"It's some eight year sin I's down in the neighborhood of the North Fork, nigh about to where it commences. The Rioways and thousands of other warmints ware tramp'n' them parts in droves, and a feller had to keep his peepers peeled to keep clear of 'em. Howsumever, before I left 'em parts, I found there's sunkthin' besides Injins to disturb a jintleman.

"One day I'd bin ridin' old Buster till him an' me war about tuckered out and used up. We'd bin arter buffler all day, and besides killin' a couple, I come onto onpleasant signs. I found redskins war close, and like as not had scented me. Howsumever, as I couldn't see none, I concluded they couldn't see me, and dismissed all fear, as they say.

"As no cover war in sight, I had to camp out on open perarie. This wan't nothin' new, and I didn't mind it. So, tellin' Buster not to go too fur away, I picked out a soft stone, and rollin' up in my blanket, went to sleep. I can't tell how long I'd bin asleep, when I commenced havin' an orful dream. It seemed the sky and earth had turned into two big slices of ice and war comin' slowly toward each other, and I's goin' to git mashed atween 'em. They kept gittin' nigher and nigher, till they almost touched. I tried to move, but couldn't. I tried to yell, but it warn't no use. I couldn't wriggle, nor even squeal. All at once, when the mighty chunks of ice war a few yards apart, they made a sudden jump for each other, and come slap together, and I right atween 'em! Just as I felt I's gittin' mashed, I give a big jump, and found my feet and back *two or three inches under water*!"

"Pshaw! don't say!" exclaimed Seth, suddenly drawing his breath and hitching up nearer to Wandaught. The latter, seeing in what a fever of interest he was, leaned back composedly, and returned:

"Yas, I ca'culate I *do* say ef you're gwine to tell the story, I'm goin' to hold on!"

"Go on! go on! don't stop!" said Seth, hitching more nervously.

"No; we'll let you tell it. You kin do it the best."

"Go on, go on! I won't stop you again," returned Seth, "I didn't think."

"Wal," commenced the hunter, resuming his position, "as I's sayin', I woke up and found I war part under water. You'd better believe I jumped to my feet in a hurry, and sich a sight as I seen! Wal, wal, there's a good moon and you could see fur near a mile, and just that fur you could see the bright ocean of water stretchin' away, and the little swells in the perarie war stickin' thar heads up like the backs of beaver. And there war

THE DOLLAR NEWSPAPER.

PHILADELPHIA:

Wednesday Morning, July 2, 1862.

GOVERNMENT OF NEW ORLEANS.

Gen. Butler's administration of affairs in New Orleans is producing a marked change in the city. The rampant mob spirit has been awed into submission. The secession turbulence is quieted and public order and security are being rapidly re-established. Some of his measures seem rigorous, but he had unusual obstacles to overcome, and the severity exhibited is only against the lawless, who require such checks to keep them within bounds. It is not alone the rowdies and ruffians of the city who have endeavored to thwart his purposes. The foreign consuls have acted in a spirit which demands their recall by their governments. They purposely misinterpret the orders of Butler, and use their presumed authority to annoy him or interfere with the proper execution of his orders. Some trouble has arisen with the Spanish Consul, from a proper exercise of authority in Butler ordering the Spanish steamer Cardenas to quarantine, she having run up to the city, in her voyage from Havana, without stopping, as required by law. The Spanish Consul, piqued at this exercise of authority, refused to give a clean bill of health to the American steamer Roanoke. General Butler told him if a bill of health, such as is usual to be given to vessels at this season, was not forthcoming the Spanish Consul would be sent on board the Cardenas and compelled to leave New Orleans. The Spanish Consul thought better of the matter, and gave the required bill of health. The British Consul addressed Gen. Butler, asking if the oath required of foreign residents was considered as affecting their national allegiance. The oath prescribed, he said, was objectionable, on the ground that it imposes on them (in words, at least) the office of spy and forces them to acts incon istent with the ordinary obligations of probity, honor and neutrality." The answer to this was that Mr. Coppell, the British Consul, must cease all official action until his credentials and pretensions are recognized by his own government and the Government of the United States. Several soldiers of the Union army, having combined with some thieves of New Orleans to plunder houses under the pretence of searching for contraband, and the fact being proven, four of them were sentenced to be hung. Equally prompt and decided has he been with the banks, compelling them to provide a better currency than the illegal and discredited Confederate bills. The news of the battle in front of Richmond had been received, and, though the rebels claimed a victory, the Union army interpreted it as a defeat, and the secessionists in New Orleans felt very unhappy over the tidings. That and the news from Corinth, with the intelligence that Beauregard had to des roy two millions of dollars' worth of stores in his retreat had produced great depression of spirits among the disloyal portion of the population, and probably assisted Butler's efforts to keep order. Not the least satisfactory point of his administration is the security which he extends to those who are disposed to be loyal, protecting them from insult and outrage. The sensible portion of the citizens appreciate his efforts, and a number of them recently serenaded him at the St. Charles. He made a speech in response, in which he declared that his feelings towards the South were friendly and fraternal; but, at the same time, he was resolved, as a matter of duty inexorably imposed upon him, to carry out the laws of the United States under all circumstances.

SURGEONS EXEMPT FROM CAPTURE.

We may congratulate our readers that this civil war has, thus far at least, been conducted with more humanity on the part of the Union forces than any civil war ever was before. As an instance of it, may be mentioned the fact, that upwards of one hundred and twenty prisoners have been thereby lately, captured in vessels violating our blockade. But, another instance, more important in the principle it establishes for all coming wars, has been the liberation, without exchange, of all captured surgeons of the Confederate army who were taken attending on their own sick and wounded. We believe that this is the first time in the history of war that any such general order has been promulgated by any Secretary of War. After the battle of Waterloo, Lord Wellington liberated the celebrated Larrey, the surgeon and friend of Napoleon, but it was an act of personal regard, and in appreciation of his services as a scientific man to the world, and not because every surgeon, as such, in discharging the duties of humanity, was held to be a privileged person. Such a view, we believe, has never been publicly taken, or adopted as a necessary rule, by any writer on the laws of war among civilized nations. An enemy's surgeons, like other officers captured on the field of battle or ships of war, were subjects of exchange, and held as prisoners. Early in this war we proposed the adoption of this rule, now so nobly accepted by the Secretary of War. In several articles on this subject, we have urged that medical men in the discharge of their duty ought not to be subject to capture, and while admitting that no precedent could be found for this course, urged the attention of the Secretary of War to it, it having become at that time a subject of correspondence between Gen. Buell and the Confederate General, A. S. Johnston.

The history of this movement, now so creditably acted upon at Washington, is as follows: Sometime in January, the Medical Director in General Cook's Division, Dr. A. P. Meylert, of this State, saw the difficulty of requiring the surgeons of our army to remain with the wounded in case of a retreat, where they too could escape, if liable to capture, as also the inhumanity of *not* remaining when the wounded might thus be left uncared for. The embalming and returning of the body of General Zollikoffer opened a way to the friendly discussion of this subject, in the course of which General Johnstone offered to do anything which our Generals would do. General Halleck took the ground in February, that, though surgeons are subject to capture, they *ought* not to be; and issued an order which he sent to Dr. Meylert, that if the Confederate Generals would agree to it, the rule should be fixed in his command that surgeons captured in the field should be sent back under a flag of truce, without exchange or parole, as soon as their services were no longer needed with their own wounded, or the circumstances of the case would allow." This was communicated to the opposite forces through Dr. Tripler, but we are not aware of any or what answer was received at the time. Now we see that Secretary Stanton has nobly ordered the unconditional release of all surgeons thus captured.

The important of this rule to humanity, if it can become general in war, can hardly be overestimated. If a surgeon must either neglect the sick and wounded, by flying when other officers retreat, or be exposed to capture when others are not thus exposed, he will not be disposed to enter the army service except as a last resort. He cannot afford to rot for years in a prison. All that allows him to perform his duties efficiently will bring a higher and nobler class of men into the field. But beside that, it will, by affording them more of the rights of humanity, teach them more of its duties. They will thus best learn universally to feel what is expected of them, i. e.—not to neglect the sick or wounded for an instant, under *any* circumstances. The recent dismissal of a surgeon for leaving sick men in the cars all night, will also teach the same lesson.

COMFORT FOR BRITISH JOURNALS.

On the arrival of every steamer, the public are treated to a telegraphic synopsis of the opinions of the London Times and Post upon the war in the United States. We do not know what there is in the opinions of these two journals which induces the European News Agents for the press in the United States to attach so much importance to them. They have both been blundering about the war ever since it broke out, and have made so many ludicrous mistakes and perversions of fact, that their opinions are only read here to be laughed at. It is amazing how easily the London organs of secession deceive themselves, and how small a success of the rebels elates them. The raid of Jackson—a petty diversion merely, leading to no result of any practical bearing upon the war, is magnified into one of the most momentous occurrences, greater than the operations of either Halleck or McClellan, though the former has broken up an immense rebel army at Corinth, and the latter promises to do as much or more for the rebel army at Richmond. Several columns, under the head of "Great Confederate Victory," are devoted to the retreat of Banks with his little band of 5,000 men, while half a dozen lines record the retreat of Beauregard with his great army of 100,000. Fitz John Porter's splendid victory at Hanover Court House is mentioned in such a way that the uninformed reader must be in doubt whether there was any battle at all. The London Times expresses the sagacious opinion that Banks' defeat will render a new Union altogether impracticable. It must count largely on the forgetfulness of its readers, when it puts forth its absurd predictions, overthrown almost as soon as uttered

COLONEL ELLET.

Col. Charles Ellet, Jr., who died in consequence of a wound received in his leg during the naval fight on the Mississippi, was the distinguished civil engineer, Charles Ellet, jr., known for his connection with the various public improvements of this and other States. He planned and superintended the suspension bridge at Fairmount, a temporary one across the Niagara river, and one at Wheeling. Some of the principal railroads in Virginia were built by him, and it was his familiarity with these works which induced him to criticise the military capacity of McClellan, for not having seized them all at an early period in the war, which he thought was perfectly practicable. He was a man of bold conception—original ideas and strong understanding. If his plans as engineer were magnificent, his [illegible] detail by which they could be [illegible] and practical. Early in the breaking out of the present war, he endeavored, through communications, some of which he published in the Ledger, to call the attention of the Government to the importance of steam rams, which he argued would penetrate iron-clad vessels, and when the prospect of a war with England was imminent, he showed how a steam-ram fleet could be speedily constructed by using our river steam-tugs. These views were strongly enforced, and were characterized by sound common sense, though they failed to produce any effect on the slow mind of Mr. Welles. When the rebel rams demonstrated the soundness of Mr. Ellet's views, he was able to interest Mr. Stanton on the subject, and to prove his own faith in their correctness, he proposed to try the experiment with these rams himself. He got a commission as Colonel, and the War Department assisted him in getting a proper ram fleet. The late fight in which he sunk nearly all the rebel gunboats remaining on the Mississippi, proved that his conclusions were correct. The experiment cost him his life, and he was the only person wounded in the engagement.

IRON CLAD VESSELS.

Our Government is wisely strengthening the navy in the class of vessels which have recently proved to be the most efficient for war purposes. All our available iron establishments are employed at this time in building iron-clad steamers of various kinds, some after the fashion of the Monitor, all of which will be completed by autumn, giving us the most powerful iron-clad navy yet constructed. Captain Erriesson has a contract for six large "Monitors," all on the general plan of the first Monitor, but each with peculiarities of its own. Some of these will be 300 feet long, or nearly twice the length of the first Monitor. The turrets will be three inches thicker than the first ship upon this pattern. The whole six vessels are intended for sea service, as well as harbor defence. These gunboats are being built at Greenwich, by Mr. Rowland. They are 3 2 feet long, with armor six inches thick. The Whitney gunboat, being built at the Dry Dock Iron Works, New York, is different in form from any other. It is shaped like a duck, is 156 feet long, and is entirely built of iron, having no wood work in her frames or sides. The frame is ribs or rings of iron, growing smaller towards the ends; the ribs three-quarters of an inch in thickness. The iron plates, to the thickness of seven inches, are laid upon these ribs. It will carry two large turrets, and will be propelled with four propeller engines. At the bow there is a formidable iron ram, nine feet long.

The other iron-clad vessels being constructed are one by Mr. Colwell, at Jersey City, which is an iron clad Monitor. One is being built at Boston, precisely of the same pattern. Three hulls and six turrets by T. F. Rowland, at Greenpoint. Three sets of engines and boilers for these three hulls are being built at the Delamater Works, New York city. Two hulls complete, with engines, boilers and turret, at the American Works, Boston—Loring & Co. Two hulls complete, with engines and boilers, but without turret, at Chester, Pa.—Reany & Sons. One hull complete, with engines and boilers, but without turret, at Wilmington, Del. The U. S. steam frigate Roanoke is being covered with armor and supplied with turrets at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. The Ironsides, at this port, is nearly completed. The new Monitors will cost $400,000 each, which is cheaper than the wooden vessels of the same size. The Roanoke cost $500,000 and $50, 00 annually to keep her in repair. Each of the Monitor class of vessels will be armed with guns able to hurl shot weighing four hundred and twenty-five pounds, which is nearly three times the weight of the round shot fired from the largest Armstrong guns yet made for the British navy. It is stated that some of them will carry guns which will throw a shell of a thousand pounds weight. In addition to these new vessels, a number of iron-clad gunboats, for lake and river service, are under way. The Marine Railway and Dock Company, Cincinnati, are constructing two new gunboats of oval deck and iron-clad. It is intended to render them invulnerable, all sorts of military projectiles glancing from the sides without producing any impression. A number of others are in process of construction, for use on the Mississippi. When these are all finished we need not have any further apprehensions about the British and French iron-clad navies. The British have four iron-clad vessels built, and are constructing twelve others, all built on the old plan, and some of them will not be constructed under two years. In addition to these, three large three-deckers are to be cut down and constructed with revolving turrets. The French have six iron-clad frigates afloat and seven building. The London Star, comparing the British and French navies, says:

We have, of steam vessels, 57 ships of the line afloat—the French have only 36; we have 9 effective sailing ships afloat—the French have only 7; so that our strength, in this class of vessels, exceeds that of France by 23 ships. We have 43 frigates afloat, besides 7 building; the French have 32 afloat, and none building. Iron-plated ships we have 4 afloat and 11 building; the French have 6 afloat and 11 building. We have 9 block ships, for which the French have nothing to show. Of corvettes and sloops we have 91 afloat and 11 building; France has not 16 corvettes afloat and none building. Our gun vessels, gun boats, mortar ships and floating batteries number 227, besides 16 building; the French iron plated floating batteries and gun boats are only 65, and 7 building. In the smaller class of vessels, tenders, despatch boats, and so forth the French rather exceed the British. With respect to sailing ships, we have two ships of the line more than France, but the latter has 11 frigates more than England. Our 79 mortar vessels and floats may well be set against the 89 small vessels, transports, brigs and corvettes of France."

THE ADVANCE UPON CHARLESTON.

The first attempt to reach Charleston by the back door, across James Island, though a failure for want of prompt co-operation on the part of the steamers to land troops, they having been detained by the Government to carry the wounded from Fortress Monroe to the Northern hospitals, appears to have been resumed again. The result has been a fight, in which the rebels admit heavy losses on both sides, and strong fears that the city would be entered. The Union troops are only four miles from the city, with the Union gunboats co-operating with them. The force does not appear to be large, only five regiments are mentioned as being engaged in the fight on Monday of last week, but they can be strengthened by the arrival of troops from Hilton Head. The danger of capture appeared so imminent to the Charleston Mercury that its publisher had sent his "Hoe's fast press" to Columbus, to be out of the way of accident. If a force sufficient can be sent to the aid of the few troops at James' Island, it is not improbable that they will celebrate the 4th of July in Charleston City. Some persons think the attack should be made in front, because the moral effect of the fall of this nest of secession would be greater at home and abroad. Those who have it to take are probably of a different opinion, and as the task is theirs, they should be permitted to do their work in the easiest way that presents itself. The moral effect will be the same whether the rock or front door is entered. Treason will see that there is no slow amount of preparation it may make to defy and overthrow a government supported by the popular will, that is strong enough to keep it from punishing the treasonable attempt. It cannot so strengthen itself but a resolute government will find some weak spot where it will apply its strength to the overthrow of rebellion.

STEAM WITHOUT NOISE

The Hudson River and New York Railroad Company are having a dummy engine built at Paterson, New Jersey, for drawing the cars of that road through the closely built streets of New York. It resembles a big box on wheels, like a freight car, with a chimney. It is a condensing engine, which obviates the noise peculiar to the exhaust in the smoke stack. New York does not stop to ask whether or not the horses will stand a locomotive in the streets. The people in that city know from experience that horses will, they only ask the question, is it more economical, and therefore necessary to use dummy engines than horses, to drag freight and passengers through the city, and having resolved that it is, they say no more about it, but order their use. With our extensive system of city passenger railroads they would use dummy engines instead of horses. We do not do so because of a fear that horses in other vehicles will be scared by steam engines, though it is just as easy to train a horse to the presence of a noiseless engine, or even a noisy one, as experience on some of our streets proves, as it is to train them to endure any other sight or sound. The use of steam for our city passenger railroads would be a great saving of expense, and a great saving of horse flesh, and we wonder that those persons who are opposed to salting the railroad tracks to get rid of the snow, because it hurt the poor horses feet, do not urge the use of steam as a substitute for horses, as it saves them this source of injury, if it be one, and a great deal of severe labor besides.

THE BATTLE NEAR CHARLESTON.

The rebel accounts of the recent fight on the 16th inst., are more nearly correct than they generally are. General Benham was repulsed with considerable loss—nearly seven hundred in killed, wounded and missing, out of five regiments. The rebel account acknowledged the gallantry of our troops and admitted that their own loss was very severe. The attack seems to have been made by too light a force, and though a surprise at first of the enemy, the latter handled his guns too well for the attacking party. The attack was made on the rebel entrenchments—an advance battery—at daylight, in the expectation of taking it by storm. The attack was gallantly made, but the rebel battery mowed down the men so fast that, after three different attempts to storm, the troops were withdrawn. The attack, it is said, was made by Benham, against the orders of Hunter, and Benham has been put under arrest and sent home in consequence. The action is to be deplored more for the loss of life than for any other evil consequence flowing from it. The Union troops immediately after it advanced their pickets in the direction of the rebel camp, and are preparing for renewed attempts against Charleston, which will not end until successful.

CONGRESSIONAL NEWS.

In the U. S. *Senate*, on Tuesday, a resolution was adopted instructing the Judiciary Committee to inquire into the statements, evidences, &c., in regard to certain contracts to furnish arms to the Government, and inquire what legislation is necessary to punish Senators and Representatives who shall lend their official influence to procure contracts, and who shall accept, directly or indirectly, any money or other reward or compensation either certain or contingent. The Committee on Finance reported a bill making appropriations for the payment of the bounties of the volunteer forces. The Confiscation bill was discussed till the hour when the Senate went into Executive session. In the *House*, a resolution was passed referring to a select committee of seven all the papers and memorials on file relating to a ship canal around Niagara Falls, on the American side. The following bills were passed: A bill appropriating five millions of dollars for the payment of bounties to volunteers, under the act of July last; bill authorizing an additional issue of $150,000,000 United States Treasury notes. A resolution was passed to print 75 000 copies of the Income and Internal Tax bill. The Senate amendments to the following bills were concurred in: The Pacific Railroad bill, and the bill prohibiting polygamy in the territories of the United States, and disapproving and annulling the laws of Utah on that subject. The President has returned to the Senate, with his reasons for not signing it, the bill to repeal that part of an act of Congress which prohibits the circulation of bank notes of a less denomination than five dollars in the District of Columbia.

In the U. S. *Senate*, on WEDNESDAY, a resolution was offered authorizing the several departments of the Government to publish in a daily paper in Washington, on Tuesday of each week, a list of contracts which shall have been solicited or proposed through the week preceding, which shall state briefly the subject matter of the contract, &c. The House bill for the appointment of an Indian Agent for Colorado Territory was passed. Notice was given of a bill creating an Agricultural Department. The Judiciary Committee reported back the General Bankrupt act, with a recommendation that it be postponed till next December. The President *pro tem.* laid before the Senate a communication from Governor Gamble, of Missouri, transmitting a copy of a resolution of the Convention of that State relative to the proposition of Congress tendering aid to the States for gradual emancipation. The Confiscation bill was considered till the hour of adjournment, and Mr. Browning made a speech in the afternoon upon it. Some of his friends represent that he speaks the views of the President because he is known to be very intimate with him. The speech was the ablest made on that side of the question. It was mostly against *all* legislative confiscation. The only confiscation he justifies is that done at the point of the bayonet. He was somewhat severe upon Mr. Sumner's confiscation speech delivered several weeks ago. While he was speaking, Secretary Seward, Count Mercier and the Danish Minister stood on the sofas in the lobby. Mr. Sumner sat talking with them, not concerned, apparently, at the charge of attempting to violate the constitution made against him. In the *House*, the Speaker presented the resolutions passed by the Missouri Convention, responsive to the joint resolution of Congress on the subject of emancipation. A bill was introduced for the admission of the State of West Virginia into the Union. The bill providing for the adjustment of the claims of loyal citizens for damages caused by the Union troops was taken up, and discussed at some considerable length. The House then took up the Tariff bill, and, after the adoption of a number of amendments, adjourned.

In the U. S. *Senate*, on THURSDAY, a resolution was introduced requesting the Secretary of War to transmit to the Senate the report of Joseph Holt and Robert Dale Owen, and all the statements of that commission in relation to their investigations. The Committee on Pensions reported a bill for the relief of the widow of the late Major General Charles F. Smith. The following bills were passed: Bill to carry into effect the French Treaty for the suppression of the slave trade; bill to grant the proceeds of certain public lands to aid in the construction of the Northern Pacific Railroad; bill to increase the compensation of Surveyors of Customs for the Northern District of New York. The Senate resolved itself into a high Court of Impeachment on the trial of West H. Humphreys, Judge of the United States District Court in Tennessee. The members of the House of Representatives came over in a body and took the seats of Senators, who were arranged upon a platform especially constructed for the purpose. Witnesses were present but the accused and his counsel were not. Gov. Andrew Johnson not answering to his name, he was excused from obeying the summons to appear in Court, on the ground that duties of a public character rendered it impossible for him to attend. The witnesses were duly examined. On the question whether the accused was guilty of the high crimes and misdemeanors charged by the articles of impeachment of the House of Representatives, the decision of "guilty" was rendered on the first article by the unanimous vote of thirty-eight Senators present. On the second article, charging him with supporting and advocating the act of secession, he was declared "guilty" by a vote of thirty-five Senators. On the third article, charging him with organizing an armed rebellion the vote was guilty, 32; not guilty, 4. On the fourth article, charging conspiracy to oppose by force the Government of the United States, the vote was—guilty, 27; not guilty, 10. On the fifth article to Senator's vote was "guilty." On the sixth article, charging him with the confiscation of the property of citizens, the vote was—guilty, 11; not guilty, 24. The President *pro tem.* then pronounced the judgment of the Court—viz: "it is hereby ordered and decreed that Westl. Humphreys, Judge of the District Court of the United States, for the Middle and Western and Eastern Districts of Tennessee, be and is removed from the said office, and that he be and is disqualified from holding or enjoying any office of honor, trust or profit under the United States." The Court then adjourned *sine die*. In the *House*, the proceedings and results of the High Court of Impeachment were received. A resolution was adopted in reference to a false statement made by a New York newspaper reporter. The Senate bill to provide additional medical officers in the volunteer service was passed.

In the U. S. *Senate*, on FRIDAY, a resolution was passed requesting the President, if it be not incompatible with the public interests, to transmit the report of Joseph Holt and Robert Dale Owen in relation to certain contracts. The following bills were passed: Bill authorizing the superintendent of Public Printing under the direction of the Joint Committee on Printing, to print and sell for cost public documents which may have been ordered by the Departments; a bill to prevent members of Congress or officers of the Government from taking any consideration for procuring contracts, office or place under the Government. A bill was introduced to establish a national foundry in the Cumberland Rock iron and coal region, Ohio, between the Big Sandy, Scioto and Ohio rivers. The Confiscation bill was considered till the hour of adjournment. In the *House* the Committee on Indian Affairs reported a bill relating to the trust funds of the Indian tribes, invested by the Government in the State bonds, abstracted from the Interior Department. The bill providing for the indemnity of losses of property sustained by loyal citizens from the movements of United States troops, and the Tariff bill, were considered. A resolution was adopted ordering the arrest of Colonel C. Murphy, of New York, to answer to the House for contempt, he having refused to obey the subpœna for his appearance before the Judiciary Committee in the case of Hon. Ben. Wood. The House then adjourned till Monday.

In the U. S. *Senate*, on SATURDAY, the President *pro tem.* laid before the Senate a communication from the War Department transmitting official reports of the battle of Pittsburg Landing, 6 hundred and sixty in number. The bill providing for the land office in Nevada was passed, the Confiscation bill was further considered. The *House* was not in session.

IN AND ABOUT WASHINGTON.

According to an order of the War Department in every case of prisoners taken in arms against the United States who may be tried and sentenced to death, the record of the tribunal before which the trial was held shall be forwarded for the action of the President of the United States, without whose orders no such sentence in such cases will be legal.

Western Virginia is to form a *new* State, and will be admitted into the Union before Congress adjourns. So says a member of the House.

Reports are current of the receipt of despatches by the Government, to the effect that the British authorities have demanded the recall of Gen Butler for his famous "Order No. 28," but they are probably without foundation. If they should prove correct, however, Great Britain will receive the same reply as the Netherlands Minister did when he made a similar demand.

It is understood that the President has expressed his determination not to make any appointments of Brigadier Generals, except officers who are in actual service, and come in the line of promotion. The Senate will not confirm any nominations for Brigadiers who are not now in the service as Colonels.

The agents of the Governors of some of the States are boldly charged with selling commissions in the regiments raised by them. This matter assumes such a serious shape that one of the investigating committees has taken it in charge.

Although nothing definite has been decided upon, it is safe to say that an adjournment of Congress may be looked for in the next two weeks at farthest.

The advices which have been received here concerning the battle on James' Island, show it to have been one of the greatest blunders of the war—second only to the slaughter of Leesburg. Gen Hunter is represented to have been exceedingly mortified when he learned of the disaster, and a sharp colloquy ensued between him and General Benham, the leader of the forces engaged. The friends of Gen. Benham, however, assert that the order of Gen. Hunter was in such general terms that not one in twenty would have understood precisely what he meant to have done. It is feared that this repulse settles the question of taking Charleston for some months to come, at least.

The previous report of our gunboats having cut off communication between the Island and Charleston was incorrect.

The extraordinary advance in gold caused a number of Senators to doubt the wisdom of adopting the House bill, authorizing an extra $150 000,000 of paper, but there seems to be a general belief that the bill will pass nevertheless.

Brigadier Gen. Cook, U. S. Volunteers, is assigned to duty in the army corps under Brig. Gen. Samuel D Sturgis.

The following staff officers will report for duty in person, to Major-Gen. Pope, in this city:—Major John Buford, Assistant Inspector General, U. S Army; Major R Jones, Assistant Inspector General, U. S. Army; Surgeon Jos. K. Barnes, U. S. Army.

The cars and protection of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad westward to Wheeling is committed to the command of Major General Wool.

A BATTLE NEAR RICHMOND.

The Enemy Severely Repulsed.

IMPORTANT STRATEGIC MOVEMENT.

Evacuation of the White House.

McCLELLAN'S NEW BASE OF OPERATIONS ON JAMES RIVER

CAPTURE OF RICHMOND CERTAIN.

KILLED AND WOUNDED OFFICERS.

Despatches from the battle-field on Sunday morning, state that a severe and most determined battle was fought on the right wing on Thursday and Friday, which is claimed by some of our officers as a successful strategic movement, drawing the enemy unwittingly into a trap, which will soon capture Richmond and the entire rebel army.

The attack was made by the enemy in immense force, who crossed the Chickahominy near the Railroad, above Mechanicsville, on Thursday afternoon. The rebels fought desperately, but were unable to drive our men a single rod, though the enemy were ten to our one.

The only force engaged that day was McCall's division, the battle lasting from two o'clock till nine P. M., when the division was ordered back.

General McClellan was on the field, and expressed himself satisfied with the result.

The Herald also publishes a report, dated the 27th, which states that our killed, wounded and missing will number 1200.

The object of the movement was to bring General Porter's and other divisions into close connection with the rest of the army. In fact, changing the front of the whole of our forces with our centre and left pressing immediately on Richmond itself, which could be done, it was expected, on Saturday.

It was a virtual surrender or vacating of a long line of defence heretofore kept up to Mechanicsville, in order to have the whole force within more effective distance. Also to allow the rebels to follow up and if possible to bag them.

Gen. McClellan ordered Gen. Porter to withdraw to two miles this side of Gaines' Mills early on Friday morning, which was done, the enemy following and thinking they had gained the victory, our troops slowly moving back in order and fighting as they went, crossing the Chickahominy and reached the position designated for their occupation by Gen. McClellan.

The rebels followed in great force, and by 3 o'clock in the afternoon a general and heavy engagement occurred here, lasting till 7 o'clock, when a lull took place, but the rebels again renewed it with greater ferocity, having been reinforced.

Our men stood the unequal contest like heroes, and the shell, grape and musketry did fearful havoc. Our forces were increased by Generals Slocum's, Palmer's, French's and Meagher's brigades, and the rebels were beaten badly.

Meagher's Brigade went into the battle with their coats off and sleeves rolled up, fighting like tigers.

The ground which Gen. McClellan ordered Gen. Porter to occupy and hold was occupied and held in the first part of the day.

Gen. Porter's corps alone contended against the rebels, but subsequent reinforcements swelled our numbers to 45,000.

The rebels had 6 or 8 000, under Generals Lee, Hill, Anderson and Branch.

LIST OF KILLED.

Col. Samuel W. Black, of the Sixty-second Pennsylvania (formerly Governor of Nebraska), by a ball through the head while leading a charge through a piece of woods. Also, Lieut. Col. Sweitzer, of the Sixty-second Pennsylvania; Col. Gere, of the Twenty-second Massachusetts; Col. Roberts, of the First Michigan; Col. M. Quade and Lieut. Col. Skellen, of the Fourteenth New York, and Major Patterson, of the Sixty-second Pennsylvania; Col. John W. McLane, of the Eighty-third Pennsylvania; Col. Magilton, Fourth Pennsylvania; Capt. Carr, Sixteenth Michigan; Capt. H. L. Brown, Co. I, Eighty-third Pennsylvania; Capt. McCatherly, Ninth Massachusetts; Capt. Madigan, Ninth Massachusetts; First Lieut. R. Nugent, Co. I, Ninth Massachusetts; Second Lieut. Francis O Down, Co I, Ninth Massachusetts; Joseph Simpson, Co. E, Second Pennsylvania; Private Partridge, Co E. Fifth New York; Private Nesmith, Twelfth Pennsylvania; George Ovitt, Co. F. Pennsylvania Buckrails; Wm. Quigley, Co. I, First Pennsylvania; H. F. Stager, Co. B, Twelfth Pennsylvania; Horace W. Clark, Co. I, Fourth Michigan

LIST OF WOUNDED.

John Grimes, Eighth Pennsylvania, shoulder, severely; Thomas Ward, Second Pennsylvania, shoulder and chest, slightly.

FULL AND GRAPHIC ACCOUNT OF THE THREE DAYS' FIGHTING.

[Correspondence of the Balt more American.]

WHITE HOUSE, Saturday, June 28.—The events transpiring at this point, and in the army before Richmond during the past four days, have been of such varied character and thrilling interest, that I scarce know where to commence or end the recital in order to make it understandable by the general reader. Many who were eye-witnesses to these movements have fled off panic stricken, fully convinced that the whole army before Richmond has been destroyed, and that, however, McClellan has been out-witted, out-generaled, &c. Rumor, and "driver to the wall," where piloted to place the enemy. The evacuation of White House was to them an inexplicable mystery under any other condition of facts; but had they have kept their eyes open early in the week, they would have discovered that the work of evacuation was silently and surely progressing before any of the fighting on the right wing, as early as Tuesday, and that large numbers of vessels had left York and the Pamunkey rivers, and were moving rapidly around to a new basis of operations on the James river. They might also have observed that all civilians were forbidden to approach the front, as early as Tuesday, under any pretence whatever, and that the immense stores of supplies at Dispatch Station had been steadily reduced for a week, until the last box of crackers, barrel of beef and bale of hay had disappeared before the great contest on Friday, which left the way open for the enemy to approach that point, which I have every reason to believe was designedly intended by Gen. McClellan, to be the mouth of the empty trap into which they were being led, and, as I hope and believe, to their entire route and discomfiture.

Before proceeding to the narrative of events as they have occurred in the vicinity of White House during the past few days, I will briefly state that the whole movement of Gen. McClellan, so far as the changing of his lines are concerned, and in reality the making of his left wing his right wing, and withdrawing his right wing to rest near Savage Station, at the railroad bridge across the Chickahominy, has been accomplished, throwing the way open for the enemy to rush to his coveted feast at the White House, where he found nothing but an empty platter.

Whether this movement is good or bad, or what may be intended by Gen. McClellan to be accomplished by it further than throwing his left on to James river, and supporting Fort Darling, is impossible at present to say. A day or an hour may decide this point, which I will proceed to a narrative of events as they occurred at White House up to Saturday afternoon, embracing such statements as reached us from the battle-field on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

WEDNESDAY AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

At the White House, on Wednesday, matters were progressing as usual with the exception that there had been a check in the landing of stores of all descriptions, whilst those on the wharf were being rapidly loaded in wagons and moved off towards the left flank. Several steamers with large strings of vessels laden with forage and subsistence had also been sent down the river in obedience to orders to proceed to City Point on the James river.

This reversal in the course of transportation occasioned considerable comment and speculation, but was ascertained to be the fulfilment of an order direct from Gen McClellan. Some supposed it to be in order for the supply of a portion of Gen. Burnside's army, which rumor said had reached the James River to cooperate with them. An order was also received from head-quarters early on Wednesday to prohibit any one from coming forward to the lines on any consideration whatever, unless the parties belonged to the army. This order was so peremptory that even those connected with the press, some of whom had come down to forward their report by the mail-boats, were prevented from returning, and others smuggling themselves through were promptly sent back.

On the same day, Gen Casey came down and took command of the small land force, not exceeding 600 men, and in the evening was notified to prepare for any moment for the entire evacuation of the post, and the preservation, as far as practicable, of the public property. Similar orders were also sent to Col. Ingalls. He immediately communicated with the fleet, and a division of men, armed with axes, proceeded during the night to cut down the trees around the White House, and subsequently all the way along, above and below the Pamunkey bridge, so as to give them free play for the use of their guns. On the same evening, we had a report from head-quarters that a division of the rebels—the forces of Stonewall Jackson and General Ewell—were approaching, and threatening to open the way by the right flank for a raid on the White House. In the meantime the trains on the railroad were kept running night and day, carrying forward nothing but ammunition and munitions of war, with siege and rocket trains and field pieces.

The down train of cars due at 7 o'clock on Wednesday evening, had not arrived, which added to the excitement among the sutlers and camp followers. At half past 10 o'clock in the evening, however, the train arrived, bringing down about ninety wounded men, it having been delayed for their accommodation. They were nearly all of Gen. Hooker's division, and had participated in the gallant advance on the left of the centre on Wednesday morning, driving the enemy from their rifle pits, and reporting that they had secured and held what is known as Tavern Hill, an important position, commanding the city of Richmond. This is the "important point" alluded to in the despatches of Gen. McClellan detailing the affair. The entire loss on our side was reported to be about two hundred and twenty wounded and sixty killed. A large number of those wounded were, however, very slight, most of them being able to walk from the cars to the hospital boat. Thus ended the events of Wednesday.

DOINGS ON THURSDAY.

The fact that the gunboats had taken position in front of the landing with their guns out and shotted, and the sweeping away of the trees, which was still progressing, gave renewed activity to the rush of the camp followers for passes by the mail-boat to Fortress Monroe, and our population commenced to be rapidly depleted.

The down train from the front reported all quiet with the exception of certain mysterious movements within our lines that were not understandable to citizens. The immense stores of forage and forage at Dispatch Station, seven miles from White House were being carried off with great rapidity, and consequently we learned that an immense train of wagons had been running from that point all day, with forage and stores, and that large greasers actively in their removal was being observed. In the evening it was announced that not a bale of hay, a bushel of oats, a barrel of beef or a box of crackers was left.

And in order that the reader may imagine the scene here presented, it may be proper for him to understand that not less than seven hundred sail of vessels were, two days previous, at anchor at the White House and landing and stream along for eight or ten miles down the river.

In the meantime the work on the construction of the railroad bridge over the Pamunkey, just above the landing, was steadily progressing, a large force of workmen being constantly at work. This fact, in conjunction with the evident movements towards a speedy evacuation, bewildered the speculations of the uninitiated but Col. Ingalls, under whose directions the evacuation was progressing, moved about as coolly as a summer's morning.

The morning train brought down the gratifying news that the forward movement of Gen. Hooker had been eminently successful, and that he held the enemy's camp and rifle pits. About one hundred more of the wounded arrived, and were removed, with the others, to the hospital steamers, where the military committee, with their large corps of surgeons, and the numerous Sisters of Charity in attendance, did all in their power to render the poor fellows comfortable. There are also a large number of volunteer surgeons in attendance, who are unremitting in their attention and kindness to the sick and wounded.

Throughout the day at White House the greatest vigilance was observed in and around the headquarters of Gen. Casey, who had pitched his tent on the central lawn in front of the White House, the building itself being occupied as the private quarters of the Sisters of Charity. An immense train of wagons was also moving forward from the subsistence and commissary departments throughout the day, and the immense stocks on shore were being rapidly diminished. The trains on the railroad were still steadily moving forward with ammunition, and continued throughout the night. Cavalry scouts had also been sent out in various directions during the day, and preparations were made for obstructing the roads.

At dusk a new panic was occasioned by the discovery that bales of hay had been piled over and about all the large masses of subsistence stores on the landings, indicating the probability that it might become necessary during the night to apply the torch to them to prevent their falling into the hands of the enemy.

Whilst all these preparations were going on, indicating the probable necessity of evacuating the landing on shore, the numerous steamers and tugs, probably fifty in number, had been busy towing down the river to West Point, a distance of fifty miles, through its tortuous windings, long lines of brigs and barks laden with stores. The vessels that were clustered about in the vicinity were collected together in separate groups and anchored in the stream, where they could be easily and rapidly taken in tow by the steamers when the time for their removal arrived.

The reports from the front on Thursday evening continued favorable—heavy skirmishing having taken place on the right, resulting in the repulse of the enemy, and a few more of the wounded arrived, who reported everything progressing most satisfactorily, whilst all the indications were that a general battle along the whole line would take place next day (Friday). The rebels were pressing on in force, but our ranks was light in proportion. They still moved on and exchanged showers of Minie balls, which were destructive on both sides, but when General Porter ordered a bayonet charge, they retreated in double quick, though General Porter pursued them but a short distance.

The enemy again rallied, and approached our lines a second time, when the same terrible slaughter ensued; this time their artillery, being better served, was more effective in the ranks of our men. On coming to close quarters they were again repulsed and driven back a still greater distance, this twice fought over battle ground being literally strewn with the dead and dying. General Porter then a second time fell back on his position, and waited nearly an hour for the enemy to renew the assault. They, however, finally came on in increased numbers, having been largely reinforced, and were again received with shell and grape, causing great chasms in their ranks, and one poor fellow, who had lost his arm, assured me that he saw the loose arms and portions of the bodies of the enemy making gyrations through the air. A third time the enemy bore down most bravely and determinedly on our lines, and this conflict was the most severely contested of the whole; but when the bayonet was brought to bear, he fell back, and was pressed towards Richmond, fully a mile beyond our original lines.

Again for the fourth time General Porter fell back to his first position, when another was received from Gen. McClellan to continue his retrograde movement slowly and in order. So consistently and apparently did the enemy again pushed forward most boldly and bravely when their advance was checked by the entire reserve force, consisting of the New York Fifth, Lieutenant Colonel Duryea, the New York Tenth, Colonel Bendix, and two other regiments, under command of Col. Warren, acting Brigadier General, and the entire force of regulars under Major General Sykes. Fresh troops force and the enemy in mass, who had previously bore the brunt of the battle moved steadily back and in good order, carrying with them their wounded and dead.

The enemy made a fierce attack on the reserve, but cannon were posted at various points of the route by which they were retiring towards the Chickahominy, which occasionally poured in shot and shell upon them and checked their movements, and enabled the troops to move back in the most admirable order. At one time in this retrograde movement, the reserve force of Gen. Sykes charged on the enemy with the bayonet and drove him back nearly a mile. In this

ARMY AND NAVY.

THE U. S. SIDE-WHEEL and double bow steamer Clmerone, which was built at Bordentown, was brought to the navy yard on Saturday, to receive her armament, consisting of heavy pivot guns and a formidable battery. The steamer Clmerone is of the same size and construction as the steamer Minna, built at the Philadelphia Navy Yard last year. Her peculiarity consists in having two bows, and in her light draught, being intended to draw only seven feet water with all her stores, armament and men on board. This steamer was launched at Bordentown on the 17th of March. She is 218 feet long, 36 feet breadth of beam, 11 feet 5 inches depth of hold, and 6 feet 9 inches draught of water.

THE U. S. gunboat J. S. Chambers arrived at the Navy Yard on Sunday, from Key West, Fla. She left this port several months ago to join the blockading squadron, and she has rendered good service on the coast of Florida and other points. The Chambers was built and fitted out at this port. She was designed for the merchant service, but was purchased by the Government when on the stocks at the yard of Messrs. Williams & Son. Her rig is that of a three-masted schooner, and she is about four hundred tons burthen. She comes here for repairs.

THE DOLLAR NEWSPAPER.

PHILADELPHIA:

Wednesday Morning, July 2, 1862.

TERMS

Of Subscription to the Dollar Newspaper,

PAYABLE INVARIABLY IN ADVANCE:

To Single Subscribers, one year	$1 00
Club of Six	5 00
Club of Thirteen	10 00
Club of Twenty, and one to the getter up of the Club	15 00
Club of Thirty-four, and one to the getter up of the Club	25 00
Club of Fifty-four, and one to the getter up of the Club	40 00
Club of Eighty, and one to the getter up of the Club	60 00
Club of One Hundred, and one to the getter up of the Club	75 00

ADVERTISEMENTS

Inserted at Twelve Cents a line, each insertion.

TO READERS AND WRITERS.

"THE DYING GIRL," verses, excellent in sentiment, and well calculated to touch the feelings of every sorrowing mother, are still quite imperfect as poetry, and we therefore pass them.

☞ We know nothing of the advertiser inquired of by our correspondent at Milford, Pike county, Penn.

"OUR PEACE" is declined.

"THE PRAIRIE OUTLAW," a graphic sketch, the character of which is indicated in its title, has come to hand, and though rather longer than suits our convenience, we shall read at our earliest leisure, and will dispose of according to its merits.

"VIOLA VENNOND."

In the present number of the "NEWSPAPER" we commence a copyrighted story, called "VIOLA VENNOND." It is a story of Trapper Life, and, though of considerable length, will be found well written, thrillingly interesting, and full to repletion of border incidents, savage life, and wild adventure. The readers of domestic stories will find this in admirable contrast with much of the love-sick romance that so generally finds place in papers devoted to this description of writing, and a relief to the horrible details of the war. We promise the readers of the "Newspaper" one of the most entertaining and popular stories that has been given to the public through any medium in a long time.

GONE, WITH ALL HIS STAFF.

It is announced that on Gen. Fremont withdrawing all his staff did the same thing, and have left the service, as they did when he was superseded in Missouri. If these officers' personal attachment to Gen. Fremont is greater than to the country in whose service they were supposed to be engaged, they can be easily spared. The Government should allow no obligations to exist in its public servants greater than those they owe to the country. The war we are engaged in is to put down forever just such pretensions as these on the part of the rebels, who recognise a stronger attachment due to the individual States they reside in, than they do to the Union, for no government can exist securely upon such secondary claims to the loyalty of its citizens. Men who cannot sink their local pride and personal attachment, in the larger obligation of duty which comprehends the whole country, have not the true notion of loyalty which should inspire the citizens of a country like this.

We do not see that the friends of Gen. Fremont have had anything to complain of in the action of the Government. It took him from civilian ranks, gave him a command superior to many better known and abler Generals, longer in the army and next in order of promotion according to the rules of the service. The Government did this in the hope that the extravagant expectations General Fremont's friends had of his military abilities, would be borne out by a favorable opportunity were afforded. These expectations have not been realized, for Fremont's operations in the valley of the Shenandoah, however brilliant, have not been so entirely successful as to create unbounded confidence in his capacity as a military commander. The country at this time cannot pause to consider mere questions of military etiquette or of military rank. It is military capacity it most needs, and wherever this is conspicuous the country has a claim upon it. It is believed to exist in General Pope, and General Pope therefore is raised to chief command. If he should fail, he, in turn, will be superseded, but as the position is created for the public service, and not for any individual's personal gratification, no one has a right to take offence and retire from subordinate position because a better man than he is presumed to be, is put into the situation. If this were so, all our military officers of subordinate rank would be warranted in a general resignation every time a better officer was placed over their heads. Most military men of discretion submit to such things as necessary and proper.

WHEN THE WAR WILL CLOSE.

To the question, "When will the war close?" the National Intelligencer answers: "The rebellion will be substantially quelled when its power to make great military movements shall be broken; and this result may be reached before many months, or even weeks, throughout the whole South, as it is already been reached in States like Kentucky, Missouri, Tennessee, Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas." It is manifestly true that the war cannot be brought to an abrupt close, as was between independent States usually are, except by the rebels all agreeing to lay down their arms. It may, therefore, continue to be waged by separate bands and in localities favorable to such guerrilla strife for some time after the main armies are broken up. Wherever the vindictiveness or the malignity of the rebels overpowers their interests, such hostility will very likely be shown. But the rebellion is now more than half conquered. One of the rebel armies has already been dispersed till it can no longer be relied upon for great military movements. The other is on the point of being attacked, and with every confidence on the part of the Union force that the rebel force will be beaten and scattered. This will be the decisive blow, if successful, and the war will virtually be at an end. All the subsequent acts of hostility must be merely the tapering off or dying out of a monstrous rebellion, too vast to lose its life in a single throe. The force that can break up the power of two great armies is found more than sufficient to deal with the scattered party, and can be exposed, therefore, to nothing but a temporary annoyance from their future movements.

NEW ORLEANS.

The advices from New Orleans represent that the course pursued by General Butler is gradually restoring confidence among the people, and many of them, especially the poorer part of the population, who have suffered so much by rebellion, are taking the oath of allegiance. Gen. Shepley administers the duties formerly performed by the Mayor, with his jurisdiction enlarged greatly by his military authority. He gives daily audiences to redress grievances or administer justice, and it is curious to note the various matters which are brought before him. Women apply for food, their husbands being in the "secesh" army; one wants an order to repair a building damaged by use as a hospital; one wants the General to enforce on a delinquent tenant the payment of rent; a deputation of Union men want him to stop the teachers in the public schools compelling the children to sing treasonable songs. All these complaints are listened to, and where the authority extends, remedied. Gen. Butler still has discussions with the foreign consuls, and generally manages to get the best of the argument. The skill, address, knowledge and practical good sense exhibited in his letters, prove his great administrative ability, and show the appointment to the position he now occupies to be one of the wisest the government has yet made. His last correspondence with foreign consuls is in reference to $2 80,000 worth of sugar purchased by some Greek merchants, who had been aiding the rebellion by giving sterling exchange for confederate bonds, and investing the latter in sugars. Gen. Butler refused in consequence to let the owners ship the sugar. Gen. Butler does not regard the transactions of the Greek merchants as strictly commercial, and he says they have no more rights than American citizens—one right less, that of meddling with the political affairs of this country. The correspondence will be found quite interesting.

THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT.

The President's visit to West Point, to see Gen. Scott, has given rise to many rumors of intended changes in the Cabinet, and the reinstatement of General Scott as Commander-in-Chief of the Army. It is said that Stanton will go out and Banks go in, and Pope is to command Banks' division. That the President should desire the advice of so skilled a military man as Scott, is not strange, considering what a poor work some of the civilian Generals around Washington have made of the Shenandoah campaign. Scott has studied the entire country with an eye to its strategic points, and with his experience and knowledge to assist the War Department, our gallant generals in the field will find able support and proper appreciation, instead of being crippled and baffled at every turn by personal jealousies, private piques and political ambitions. If the reports be true, they afford another proof of the good sense of the President, in applying to the best sources for aid in an emergency, and setting aside all other considerations than the good of the country when he wishes to obtain it.

SURGEONS FOR THE ARMY.

Immediately after the battle of Waterloo the ablest Surgeons in London volunteered their services to the British Government, and were sent to Belgium, where they found many of the brave fellows whose wounds had not then been dressed. It was a noble field for usefulness and for professional study, and whether they sought and obtained pay for their services or not from the Government, they got their reward in doing good, and such opportunities for the study of gunshot wounds and the resulting fevers and complaints as a life-time would not have afforded without.

In every division of the army there is a great complaint of the want of Surgeons after every engagement or long continued march. In Fremont's last rapid and brilliant march to cut off Jackson, he had to establish hospitals at places here and there on his march, leaving at least one surgeon, and sometimes two, in charge. With only two surgeons to a regiment, this and the sickness incident to medical men walking among fevers and wounds soon brought down the number of medical men. In a division engaged in very active service, double the number of surgeons are wanted. Whether there is a battle, or whether there is not, before Richmond, an increase of medical men of the right sort would be most valuable. There are many, no doubt, who would be ready to volunteer, who would prove worse than useless, consuming stores intended only for the sick, and neglecting those they came to save.

But for men of the right stamp, conscientious lovers of their noble profession, of various grades of experience and knowledge, there is an opportunity for learning the mysteries of their work more rapidly and effectively than by years of routine practice. The medical schools of this city are not now in session. But there are, no doubt, medical officers belonging to them who could and would, under proper arrangements, take charge of a number of those students, who might desire to spend the vacation between their sessions of lectures in profitable study. We need medical cadets of the right stamp, willing to deny themselves, and study for the sake of improving rapidly in their great work, while accomplishing a momentous and immediate good. If a hundred medical students, or those who recently graduated, under the guidance of a sufficient number of able professors, were at once to be sent by the Government to McClellan's army for three months, it would be worth almost three thousand men added to the real strength of the army—men cured of sickness and of wounds.

We have no doubt that, if a body of such medical gentlemen were to volunteer at this moment for three months of medical service, they would be accepted, if properly selected and recommended. They would at least be passed free of expense to the places appointed them, and be furnished with rations. How far they are yet admitted to practice should expect pay we do not know. Certainly, the benefit to them would be far beyond any pecuniary remuneration. Such labors ought also to be in some way testified to in their graduating papers, and it might be made a means and ground of appointments into the service regularly and permanently, if they so desired, after their course was honorably completed.

The professors would find, both in the wounds and diseases brought under their treatment, the materials for great freshness of illustration in their next courses of lectures, and for remarks as to the construction of army hospitals, and the causes and cure of sickness, where men are crowded together in an army. The value of all this could not be over estimated at this time. All coming time would reap the benefit of prompt action at the present, when an engagement may any day bring their services into the greatest possible demand.

FINDING MORE TROUBLE

The aristocrats in the British Parliament have a hard time of attending to their public duties. They not only have the weight of the British Government upon their shoulders, but that of the United States also. Indeed, they give more attention to occurrences in this country than they do to those in their own, and are afflicted largely with the distress which usually accompanies to so great an attention to other people's business. The United States have the habit of doing things which quite shock the British notions of civilization, and, as the self-constituted guardians of good manners, the refinements, polish and humanity of the age, the British are bound to express their disapprobation of it. At first they were horrified that their secesh friends, engaged in plundering our commerce, should be treated as pirates, and gave vent to their indignation in no measured terms. Then they were indignant that commerce should be obstructed and the "highways of the world" shut up by a stone blockade. Now they are astonished and pained that General Butler should require the women in New Orleans who were addicted to the refined practice of spitting in the soldiers' faces to behave themselves as ladies should, or be treated as ladies should not be. Palmerston could not read Butler's order "without indignation." Spitting in common soldiers' faces is doubtless good enough for such canaille in the opinion of an English "nob." Butler, who is a plain soldier and as respectable a man as Palmerston, thought differently, and he put a stop to it by a timely notice, which saved the women from insult as well as our soldiers, for the women put aside the public expression of their silly anger, when they reflected how it exposed their conduct to an interpretation not very flattering to their modesty. The propriety of the order is proved by the effect; and there is no city in America where the women are safer or enjoy greater privileges than in New Orleans at the present time. What will the "guardians of civilization" discover next to find fault with? The humanity and forbearance with which our war against the rebellion is carried on, is a most striking contrast to the English war against the Sepoy rebellion. The blowing of Sepoys from the muzzle of cannons, and the treatment of the King of Delhi, are atrocities which have not yet been practised in this country and never will be.

THE NATIONAL TAX.

It will be something new in the experience of the people of this country to have the tax-gatherer calling upon them, and to find that every article they can drink or wear has to bear a share of the expenses of the war. A great deal of the tax is so collected that the consumer will only know of it by the enhanced price of the article consumed, as the excise duty paid by the retailer, and the tax on manufactured articles which is to be paid by the manufacturer, and which of course will be added to the price of the product. So the tax on professional and business pursuits will, to a less degree, make the services of professional and business men more costly to those who need them. Stamp duties upon every legal document and form needed in the transaction of business; charges upon every piece of commercial paper or bank issue, check, bills and notes, will make the transactions in public offices and financial institutions more expensive, and many expedients will be devised, in spite of patriotism, to get rid of the most burthensome of them. Probably the most objectionable of all will be the income tax, which is laid upon all incomes over $800. The objection to this tax is not so much the amount as the fact that it requires every man to reveal matters which have hitherto been considered his private business. The effect will be to add largely to the class of individuals who live on very moderate incomes. The bill will go into effect on the 1st of August, and the income tax provided for in it is to be levied on the 1st of May, 1863, for the year from May 1st, 1862, to May 1st, 1863. The direct tax imposed at the extra session of Congress, and which was to be in operation for three years, is suspended, unless renewed by Congress, except for the first year, which, having gone into operation in most of the States, will have to be enforced in all of the rest.

PUT THEM TO WORK.—Every few days, a number of persons from Washington, members of Congress and others, go down to visit the camps in front of Richmond, annoying the officers and interfering with the duties required of them. General McClellan has, in consequence, issued an order, forbidding any one to come beyond the White House, except on military business. He ought to issue another, requiring all civilians found unemployed about the camps, or visiting it from idle curiosity, to be taken in custody by a guard, marched to the front of the lines, and be set to work digging rifle-pits and ditches. It would be a proper relief to the overworked soldiers, and would be teaching idlers the value of time to those who have something to do. If a sharp little skirmish could be got up for their entertainment while in front, it would serve to impress the lesson upon their minds. The conduct of these persons at Bull Run ought to exclude them forever from the camps, unless they are there in the ranks of the army.

RELATIONS OF GOVERNORS OF STATES TO VOLUNTEERS IN THE NATIONAL SERVICE.—The Governor of Kansas recently deposed a colonel of one of the regiments of that State. The U. S. Attorney General expresses the opinion that a Governor has no right to depose an officer when once elected, commissioned and received into the service of the United States. The Kansas regiment, having been enlisted in the service of the United States, was under the command of the President, and not of the Governor.

AMUSEMENTS.

Chanfrau continues his engagement at the Arch Street Theatre, and Miss Julia Daly at the Walnut. *Nixon's Cremorne Garden.*—The most timely and the best appreciated summer entertainment which New York now affords is that devised by Mr. Nixon, at his garden and pavilions on Fourteenth street. So far as we remember, Mr. Nixon's name has never been associated with an inferior exhibition of any kind. His entertainments have been of varied character, but they have always been the best of their order. And so there is a sort of confidence in him which guarantees beforehand the success of any enterprise which he dictates. In his last enterprise the visiter finds first, in the evening, a concert troupe, of which the leading artist is one of the most finished and accomplished now before the public—Miss Carlotta Patti. Her name gives proof of the excellence of any entertainment with which she is connected. A ballet follows, introducing Cubas, the best dancer of her school. Then an open-air concert. The garden with which this takes place is decorated with symbols sufficiently Oriental to make it picturesque. Last of all comes a genuine circus performance, in which all the feats are cleverly carried through. The performances follow in close succession, and are never suffered to pass beyond judicious hours. They are all concluded by half-past ten or eleven o'clock.

LITERARY RECORD.

Rifle Shots at Passing Events. In three cantos. Philadelphia: T. B. Peterson & Brothers. The author professes to be an inhabitant of the Comet of 1861," and from that celestial height, assisted by the radiance diffused around him, he views and comments upon the affairs, political, military and social of the present period. He treats his readers to: A Sojourn in "Dixie's Land;" Interview with President Davis; Interview with General Beauregard; His Description of Battles, &c.; Sojourn in Washington; Interview with President Lincoln; Interviews with Secretary Seward, General Scott, General McClellan, &c; Visit to the Diplomatic Corps; Interview with Lord Lyons; Rambles through Washington and Georgetown; Visiting the Capitol, Congress, the Public Buildings; General Philosophical Speculations; Sojourn at Willard's; Soliloquizing at the base of the National Monument; Seeing the Elephant; Fighting the Tiger, &c. Those who follow him through all these scenes, will find that they have variety and pleasant entertainment.

Primary Cook Book. By Mrs. Putnam. Long: Boston. Petersons: Philadelphia.

This is a plain, practical book of receipes, especially suited to the times and for new beginners at housekeeping. Unlike most of the elaborate works on cooking that have preceded it, it is filled with directions to persons in the more humbler walks of life. In fact we have be more generally useful than the unpretendnever seen a cook book that seemed to us to ing little volume before us. To every young housekeeper, whether in high or the more humble walks of life, much may be gleaned of daily use and of lasting advantage.

Hans of Iceland; or, The Demon of the North. By Victor Hugo, Bradburn: New York. Petersons: Philada.

Those who are reading with so much pleasure Hugo's last novel, "Les Miserables," will, no doubt, feel induced to extend that pleasure by reading "Hans of Iceland," one of his best romances, translated by J. T. Hudson.

Abel Drake's Wife. By John Saunders. Harpers: New York. Petersons: Philadelphia.

This admirable novel is republished from an English work, and appears in its present form as No. 221 of Harper's Library of Select Novels. Like all the works forming that Library, it is really a well-written and most capital story.

NEWS AND NOTINGS.

A Cincinnati paper wishes to know if singular people ever die of Pleurisy?

☞ Gen. Scott's wife died at Rome on the 10th inst.

☞ Capt. McMichael, of Gen. Grant's staff who was taken prisoner at Shiloh, has been exchanged.

☞ The Richmond papers contain advertisements offering as high as $300 for substitutes for the war.

☞ Albert Pike has written a good deal of fugitive poetry, and Prentice says he seems now to be a fugitive poet.

☞ It is said that Queen Victoria has once or twice visited the International Exhibition in privacy.

☞ An English paper laments that a horrible tendency of British parents to murder their children is on the increase.

☞ The Louisville Journal avers that though Humphrey Marshall has a tremendous foundation, his statements have none at all.

☞ They say half a million people attended the last Derby race in England, and as many dollars changed hands by betting.

☞ The Springfield Republican reproves the N. Y. Tribune for its attacks upon, and misrepresentations of, the policy of the Administration.

☞ Deserters from Sumter say that the fort is already mined, to be blown up when Charleston surrenders.

☞ As if the country was not spending money enough, there is a lobby influence at Washington to secure a Government loan to President Juarez of $11,000,000.

☞ The sewing girls employed in the Government clothing manufactory at St. Louis, have voluntarily contributed $226 for the benefit of the sick and wounded soldiers in the hospitals of that city.

☞ Alden's type-setting machines, costing $500, and doing the work of six or eight compositors, have been ordered in several of the largest printing and newspaper establishments of New York.

☞ At the Lexington, Ky., races, on the 9th inst., a horse owned by H. P. McGrath ran a mile in one minute and forty-four and a quarter seconds.

☞ The Congressional Generals have a very pleasant way of commanding the army, namely: sailing down to Fortress Monroe, once a week, with a band of musicians and "fixins," on a jollification.

☞ The New York Express thinks the right men in the right place are newspaper correspondents digging in the trenches and mustered into the ranks by Gen. McClellan.

☞ The Charleston Mercury of the 7th announces its intention of henceforth printing only on a half-sheet. It acknowledges the loss of nearly 2 00 subscribers.

☞ Five rebel Governors are now absent from their posts, wandering up and down the country in search of employment—Rector of Arkansas, Milton of Florida, Moore of Louisiana, Jackson of Missouri, and Harris of Tennessee.

☞ A soldier in the Fortieth New York was saved from death by his wife's picture in his breast pocket. A rifle ball was repelled by the iron plate, and though the concussion doubled the soldier up, he was not injured. Moral: keep your wife's face next to your heart.

☞ Rebel prisoners say that so great is the fear entertained by the rebels at Richmond of certain Union Generals that whole companies have been specially detailed to kill them in any engagement. One instance is related of a company of Georgians, in the battle of Fair Oaks, firing a volley at General Kearney, whom they denominate "the one-armed devil." They concluded he was bullet proof.

☞ A newspaper in Leavenworth has been suppressed for "attacking the Government." The principal "attack" seems to have been in insinuating that Mr. Seward is fond of wine. The New York Tribune continues unabated to denounce the President, McClellan, and everybody but Fremont and the radicals. Leavenworth must be "spoke to."

☞ The rope used on the occasion of the execution of Mumford, at New Orleans, was taken from the Parish Prison, and was intended for one of Gen. Butler's agents, who was captured early in April and confined in that place. He was to have been hung with that rope the same day that the fleet passed the forts, but the event caused a postponement, which saved the life of the agent.

☞ There were 273 deaths in this city in the week ending on Saturday last, of which 131 were adults and 142 were children. There were 29 from consumption of the lungs; 4 from diphtheria; 2 from diarrhœa; 5 from disease of the heart; 18 from debility; 12 from typhoid fever; 15 from inflammation of the lungs; 12 from marasmus; 5 from palsy; 4 from small-pox; and 19 from gunshot wounds.

☞ The Democratic ticket for city officers at Springfield, Ill.—President Lincoln's home—has been elected by about two hundred majority. At the city election in Leavenworth, Kansas, the whole Democratic general ticket was triumphant. The Democrats gave the Republicans of Keokuk a close run for Mayor. The Republican candidate was elected by two or three majority.

THE PACIFIC RAILROAD BILL, which has passed both Houses of Congress, gives alternate quarter sections of land along the line of the road to the "Union Pacific Railroad Company," who are to organize and open subscriptions to the stock of the company within three months. All the land of this grant that is not sold in three years after the road is finished is to be open to pre-emption, at the rate of $1 25 per acre. The Government also agrees to aid the road by its bonds to the amount of sixteen thousand dollars per mile, to be issued, however, only whenever a section of forty miles is completed and equipped, and in running order; and afterwards for other like sections. These bonds are to be redeemed in thirty years, but by the Company, whose road is mortgaged to the Government to secure that. At least five per cent. of the net earnings of the road to be applied to the payment of the bonds. The company is to locate the road within two years, and to complete it within twelve years, or by the year 1874.

NEWS RECEIVED BY TELEGRAPH ON MONDAY.

Thirty-Seventh Congress—First Session.

WASHINGTON, June 30.

SENATE.—Mr. Wilkinson (Minn.) introduced a bill to repeal the acts granting pensions to the widows of Gens. Fersher F. Smith, Alex. Macomb and Ripley.

Mr. Fessenden (Conn.) called up the bill granting a pension to the widow of Gen. C. F. Smith, of fifty dollars per month. After a discussion, it was passed—yeas 24, nays 16.

Mr. Trumbull (Ill.), from the Committee on Conference, on the bill prescribing an additional oath of office, made a report. The bill, as reported, prescribes an additional oath to every officer of the Government, except the President. After a discussion, the report was agreed to.

The resolution providing that contracts made by the Departments be published weekly in newspapers, was taken up and passed.

Mr. Hale (N. H.) offered a resolution that the Naval Committee inquire whether the Superintendent of the Naval Academy, or any officers of the Government connected with its instruction there, have allowed or countenanced in young men any manifestations of hostility to the United States, or whether any officer of the said Academy has done so. Adopted.

The Senate then went into executive session, and subsequently adjourned.

HOUSE.—The House resumed the consideration of the bill for the construction of a ship canal for the passage of armed and naval vessels from the Mississippi river to Lake Michigan.

Mr. Blair (Mo.), in advocating the bill, said, we cannot calculate on the good feeling and friendship of Great Britain. That government has a rancorous hate towards us, and will seize any pretext to strike down their great commercial rival. The people themselves, however, are not thus influenced. He alluded to the recent decree in Parliament, not with a hope of removing prejudices, but to show that it devolves upon us not to rely on the friendship of any foreign power, but upon our own power and resources alone.

Mr. Arnold (Ill.) referred to the fact that, while the Atlantic coast is defended by fortifications and the navy, nothing has yet been done for the Northern lakes.

Mr. Ely (N. York) said the present amendment proposed to the bill before the House appropriated three and a half millions of dollars for the purpose of effecting such an enlargement of the locks of the Erie canal as will admit the passage from the Atlantic waters to Lake Ontario and Erie, and therefore to all the upper lakes of the great St. Lawrence basin of war vessels of the size and construction of the Monitor, which he fears in Hampton Roads have so recently excited the surprise and admiration of the world. Or, in other words, the object to be effected by this small appropriation is to establish a water communication entirely within our own territory, and completely under our own protection, between our naval resources on the Atlantic coast and those northward and northwestward inland seas, where we are restrained by treaty stipulations from maintaining any navy whatever. Of the commerce of these internal seas we do not know which most to admire, its rapid growth, its present greatness, or the boundless expansion which awaits it in the future. After showing the importance of the proposed work, Mr. Ely said it was upon the matured experiment that they were asked to embark. These New York canals are existing facts. The practicability of the work has been tested. Mr. Ely proceeded at some length, to show the importance of the proposed improvement, both in a commercial and military view, but especially the latter, maintaining that we should always be prepared for any danger that may threaten our peace.

Mr. Pomeroy (Kansas) expressed his views in favor of the bill.

Mr. Vallandigham (Ohio) said it proposed to appropriate two hundred thousand dollars, and pledge the faith of the United States to the extent of ten millions. He was opposed to the measure, first, because it was wholly unconstitutional, and the debt and liability of the expenditures of the Government are too great to justify any further assumption of liability.

Mr. Olin (N. York) showed the importance of the measure as a means of national defence, and in the course of his argument said it was indispensable that we should have command of the Northern Lakes. He expressed the deliberate conviction that if the Union army should meet with a substantial reverse before Richmond, our Government would be notified, as soon as the diplomatic papers could be prepared by France and England, that the struggle between the loyal and rebellious States ought to cease, and that it is impossible to reduce the latter to submission to the Constitution. He stored upon the British Government as continually seeking a pretext to interfere in our affairs, for the purpose of dividing the Confederacy.

Mr. Stevens (Pa.), after a speech, moved to postpone the further consideration of the subject till the first Monday in January. Disagreed to by one majority.

Without further proceedings on the subject, the House adjourned.

Latest from the Peninsula.

THE BATTLE RESUMED—REPORTED GENERAL ENGAGEMENT.

WASHINGTON, June 30.—It is reported that a Cabinet officer has just received information from the Peninsula direct, to the effect that the battle was resumed on Sunday.

The engagement is said to have become general along the whole line, and the decisive battle is believed to have been opened.

This is the current rumor on the Street, and I send it for what it is worth.

In the absence, however, of any information from the War Department, it is impossible to get at the exact truth of the rumors flying thick and fast. The only news we have received from official sources is the war bulletin of Secretary Stanton, which announces that no serious disaster to our arms is reported.

Latest from the War Department.

WASHINGTON, June 30.—The Government has no accurate information of the state of affairs on the Peninsula, in consequence of the interruption of the telegraphic communication.

Nothing has been received to warrant the belief of any serious disaster.

THE RECENT BATTLE NEAR CHARLESTON.

Desperate Fighting—Severe Losses.

OUR LOSS 668 KILLED AND WOUNDED.

ARRIVAL OF GEN. BENHAM AND STAFF.

[Correspondence of the N. Y. Express.]

PORT ROYAL, S. C., June 23d.

The first idea of an advance on Charleston originated with Gen Benham, who has been the working man here since March, some two months ago; and his intention was to concentrate his troops, and make a dash across James Island from the Stono River, some fine morning, seize Fort Johnson, and get command of Charleston. After a while Gen. Hunter adopted the plan, and directed it should be undertaken. On the afternoon of the 10th, the rebels attacked General Wright's pickets, and were repulsed with heavy loss, our loss being very slight. The troops being exhausted, the reconnoissance for the next day was postponed, and some heavy guns having arrived, it was proposed to put them in battery in advance of Gen. Stevens' camp, and try their effect upon the rebel Fort before renewing the project of an assault. This was accordingly done.

All this, so far, was done and ordered while General Hunter was present and commanding. On the 12th, General Hunter went away, leaving General Benham in command, and ordering that "no advance should be made on Charleston, nor any attack on Fort Johnson without reinforcements or further orders," but that the camps should be made "secure and entrenched."

The battery produced no effect upon the rebel fork, and its shells and shot commanded our position and rendered our camps insecure, it became necessary to recur again to the old plan of the reconnoissance, and to attempt to reduce it by assault.

This was reported by deserters, and the report has been since confirmed, *that the whole rebel force at Secessionville was but seven battalions with six guns mounted and seven more ready for use.* The fort was not even on the route to Charleston or Fort Johnson, and it was deemed not only a necessary, but a comparatively easy job to take it.

The reconnoissance was therefore ordered for the 16th, and as the rebels had had a week to strengthen, the number of troops was increased. General Stevens, with about four thousand men, was to make the attack at daybreak, while General Wright and Col. Williams, with three thousand more, were to come up on the left to protect and support him. Somehow the movement was delayed an hour, and as our troops rushed up in a plain field they were in broad day, and were met by a murderous fire of grape and cannister.

Two regiments only reached the front, much cut up, the 8th Michigan and 79th New York (Highlanders).

The 28th Massachusetts broke and scattered, while the 46th New York did little better. The first two drove the gunners from their guns. Some mounted the parapet, and some even penetrated the work, but the other regiments, there being two besides those named, not rushing up to their support, they were obliged to retire after having really held it for nearly twenty minutes.

Meantime Col. Williams had been ordered to reinforce Gen. Stevens, but instead of joining him on the right as was expected, he led his party round to the other side of the fort, when he was separated from it by a marsh and was exposed to a severe cross fire from some rebel guns in the woods on the left. His troops, the 3d N. H. and 3d R. I., fought nobly, and met with considerable loss. For three quarters of an hour not a gun was fired from the fort, and those who reached it concur in saying that the prompt presence of a few hundred men would have carried it, but they were not there at the juncture, and after the troops retired, it was not deemed judicious again in broad day to make an assault upon what might have then been a reinforced enemy.

Our loss was about 100 killed, and 500 wounded and missing. The loss of the enemy, as reported by contrabands and otherwise, was about equal to our own.

Gen. Benham, it seems, was second in command under Gen. Hunter, and had three brigades under his charge at James Island. It is said that the attack made by Gen. Benham was undertaken without authority. Gen. Hunter having given instructions not to make any attack on the rebel position. This statement derives an appearance of truthfulness from the fact that Gen. Benham returns here under arrest, with instructions to report himself at Washington.

Among the men who participated in the fight, it is said by the wounded who arrived here this morning, a strong and bitter feeling of dissatisfaction exists against Gen. Benham, the impression being quite general that he badly managed the affair. On the other hand, it is understood, Gen. Benham claims that his advance was designed only as a reconnoissance in force, and that as such it was successful.

The rebel fort attacked is a remarkably strong earth work, scientifically constructed. It is located on a rise of ground, which is surrounded by a deep morass. It was armed with thirteen forty-two pound rifled guns, which were used in throwing shell. The fort was surrounded with a deep ditch, filled with water, and the ground for some distance in front and on the left was ditched and ditched a great deal, so as to make the force difficult of approach to our forces.

The attack on the front of the fort was made by Gen. Stevens' Brigade, composed of the Michigan eighth, Connecticut sixth and seventh, Massachusetts twenty-eighth (all infantry regiments) and a Connecticut battery of four twenty-four pound guns. The Michigan eighth led the attack, and suffered more than any other corps engaged in the battle, losing, in killed, wounded and missing, about two hundred men.

The enemy's pickets were driven in, and then a bold push was made for the fort, but an open battery of three guns, in fixed position, was met at the distance of two hundred yards in front of the fort. Our men drove the rebels from these pieces, and dislodged and secured them.

General Wright's brigade supported General Stevens' on the left. Gen. Wright's brigade consisted of the New York Forty-sixth, Forty-seventh, Forty-eighth and Seventy-ninth infantry regiments, and Hamilton's famous (former Sherman's) battery. The Seventy-ninth regiment were advanced to the onset upon the fort, with the men of Gen. Stevens' brigade. Hamilton's battery took up a position where they could bring their fire to bear directly on the fort, and the other regiments of the brigade took no active part in the contest, but were held in readiness to advance, when ordered to do so.

Soon after the fight opened, Acting Brigadier Williams' brigade was ordered to make a flank movement and join in the attack on the left of the fort. This brigade consisted of the Tairdi New Hampshire infantry, Third Rhode Island Infantry and battery, the First Massachusetts Cavalry, and Serrill's New York Engineer Regiment. The cavalry were left behind in making the advance. They took no direct part in the struggle, but numbers of them were useful in acting as orderlies and in other capacities where they would be serviceable.

Some of the officers of the brigade represented to Acting Brigadier Williams that it would be best to make the flank movement cautiously, as there were masked batteries in the woods off beyond the sloping open ground and creek on the left of the fort. Col. Williams, however, disregarded these representations, and ordered a bold push in that direction.

The order was promptly obeyed, although not without some wavering, that the movement was a rash one. The troops were permitted by the rebels to get into the position sought, and when they were opposite the fort, a heavy masked battery belched forth a murderous fire from the opposite direction, and kept it up vigorously. It was here and immediately in front of the fort, where the Michigan Eighth and the New York Seventy-ninth were desperately fighting at the parapets of the fort, that our greatest losses of the battle were sustained. The men engaged in the flank movement were kept under the hidden fire of the rebels for one hour and ten minutes. The rebel masked batteries were unheeded by our men, not withstanding a fearful decimation was going on in their ranks, their attention was given to the fort, into which they poured a fire so rapidly that, in conjunction with the firing in the front, the secession gunners were driven back from their pieces, and for forty minutes not a gun was fired from the fort. The Third New Hampshire men were furthest in on the left, where they deployed as skirmishers to avoid as much as possible the rank fire of the masked batteries. The same was done immediately by all the other regiments. Below the masked batteries a rebel infantry fire was also opened upon them from the dense and impenetrable woods across the creek.

On the front of the fort the Michigan Eighth and the New York Seventy-ninth made the most heroic attempts to get over the parapets, having filled up and made a bridge of logs across the ditch. It is said that these men were repeatedly driven back by the rebels, and that they as often returned desperately to the parapets, even reaching over to grasp at the former within.

The danger of the situation was heightened by this time by shell firing from Fort Johnson, a rebel stronghold off to the right of the position under attack.

It is thought that if a flank movement had been made on the right at the time our forces had succeeded in checking the fire from the fort, the position would have been won for us.

During the repeated onsets made, our troops were sometimes repulsed and scattered, but there was hardly an instance in which they failed to reform speedily and return to the charge.

In the midst of the carnage, while our troops on the flank were suffering from the combined covert fire of batteries and infantry, an order was given for a general retreat. In making the retreat the Third New Hampshire was the last regiment of the forces withdrawn from the flank position, and they came near being cut off by two South Carolina regiments, who sought to place themselves between the New Hampshire men and the fort. The design of the enemy was quickly discovered and frustrated, however, by the interposition of other of our regiments.

[Correspondence of the Dollar Newspaper.]

THINGS IN NEW YORK.

NEW YORK, June 30, 1862.

The annual commencement of Columbia College took place on Wednesday, at the Academy of Music, before a large and fash onable audience. Among the gentlemen present were Right Rev. Bishop Potter, Dr. Vinton, Dr. Cox of Baltimore, Bishop De Lancy and Professor Lieber.

The degree of A. M. was conferred upon the following gentlemen:—E. H. Anderson, R. S. Bacon, Thos. J. Benjamin, J. C. Bunn, E. F. Browning, E. T. Caldwell, F. P. Church, Governeur Gruger, Wm. J. Cushman, J. W. Duer, O. De F. Field, F. F. Gerner, Chas. A. Jackson, Wm. Jay, J. P. Lascomb, Wm. Lummis, G. W. Maynard, J. Emery McClintock, J. F. Moore, S. W. Phenix, Wm. L. Raymond, S. R. Reynolds, W. T. Sabine, O. E. Schmidt, J. A. Slipper, G. M. Tooker, J. F. Trenor, H. B. Whitehouse, R. B. Van Kleek, jr., A. W. Hale, Wm. J. Sayres, L. A. Curtis. The degree of A. B. on Irving Grinnell. And the degree of S. J. D., on Rev. Samuel Bush, of Christ Church, of Poughkeepsie; Rev. Geo. Jarvis Geer, Rector of St. Timothy's Church; Rev. J. J. Smith, Rector of the Church of the Ascension; Rev. Benj. M. Martin, Professor of Philosophy and History, of New York University.

The Grand Jury came into the Court of Sessions, this morning, and presented three indictments against Samuel Hallett, broker, 58 Beaver street, charging him with forgery and false pretences, in connection with the over-issue of Indiana bonds.

Two indictments were likewise presented against Samuel C. Stover, the Indiana State Agent, charging him with the same offence. The Recorder held Hallett to bail to answer in the sum of $15,000, or $5,000 on each indictment. Stover was in more active pursuit of accomplices, already in custody in default of $5000 bail.

On motion of Hallett's counsel, the indictments were transferred to the Oyer and Terminer. This will put off the trial till October next and disposes negatively of the report that further proceedings would be had with a view to having the indictments quashed.

Judge Barnard, in the Supreme Court (special term) has decided that the selling of lager beer was not prohibited by the act suppressing the Concert Saloons. That act forbids the selling of "beer" at places of public amusement, but declares that by the word "beer," within the meaning of the statute, does not include "lager." There is great rejoicing among young Germany in consequence.

The work on the steam frigate "Roanoke" is rapidly progressing. Her larboard side has now its proper complement of plating attached; her bottom has been completely covered, and one will be taken off the dock in a week or two. At the machine shop workmen are busy night and day casting shell. The receiving ship North Carolina is slowly filling up with recruits—there are now some 250 on board. The steamer

THE CALVARY CHARGE.

BY FRANCIS A. DURIVAGE.

With the bray of the trumpet
And roll of the drum,
And keen ring of bugle,
The cavalry come.
Sharp clank the steel scabbards,
The bridle chains ring,
And foam from red nostrils
The wild chargers fling.

Tramp! tramp! o'er the greensward
That quiver below,
Scarce held by the curb bit
The fierce horses go:
And the grim-visaged colonel
With ear-rending shout
Peals forth to the squadrons
The order—"Trot out!"

One hand on the sabre,
And one on the rein,
The troopers move forward
In line on the plain
As rings the word "gallop!"
The steel scabbard's clank,
And each rowel is pressed
To a horse's hot flank;
And swift is their rush
As the wild torrent's flow
When it pours from the crag
On the valley below.

"Charge!" thunders the leader:
Like shaft from the bow
Each mad horse is hurled
On the wavering foe.
A thousand bright sabres
Are gleaming in air,
A thousand dark horses
Are dashed on the square.

Resistless and reckless
Of aught may betide,
Like demons, not mortals,
The wild troopers ride.
Cut right! and cut left!—
For the parry who needs?
The bayonets shiver
Like wind-shattered reeds.
Vain—vain the red volley
That bursts from the square—
The random shot bullets
Are wasted in air.
Triumphant, remorseless,
Unerring as death—
No sabre that's stained
Returns to its sheath.

The wound that are dealt
By it at murderous steel
Will never yield ease
For the surgeon to heal.
Hurrah! they are broken—
Hurrah! boys, they fly—
None linger save those
Who but linger to die.

Rein up your hot horses
And call in your men—
The trumpet's sound "Rally
To color" again.
Some saddles are empty,
Some comrades are slain,
And some noble horses
Lie stark on the plain:
But war's a chance game, boys,
And weeping is vain.

THE FARMER.

[Written for the Dollar Newspaper—Philada.]

THE COW.

Next to the horse the cow is justly valued as the most useful animal on the farm. The ox tribe, of which it is the female, belongs to the order *Ruminantia*, in the class *Mammalia*, these terms implying that these animals ruminate or chew their food a second time, and have mammæ or teats with which they suckle their young. In a wild state the udder is small, and shrinks into an insignificant compass when the duty of suckling is over, but when domesticated for the sake of its milk, and that liquid is drawn from it by artificial means, the lacteal or milk vessels enlarge and the udder expands so as to become a prominent feature in the animal. In this manner constant milking has changed the whole economy of the domestic cow, and rendered it more capable of yielding supplies of that valuable fluid.

It is important to remember that the milk-yielding powers of the cow are not the same in different breeds, since in some of them the food turns to beef instead of milk. Again some breeds give a large quantity of milk, but it is thin and poor, whilst others give a smaller quantity of a rich and good quality. The signs of productiveness of milk in the cow are: a thin head and neck, clean chaps, free from lather, deep and rather flat carcass, wide hips, the bones perhaps inclined to be pointed, capacious udder and large, plain milk-vein—last two signs worth all the rest." The good points of a cow have been well presented in the following specimen of doggerel:

"She's long in her face, she's fine in her horn,
She'll quickly get fat with oil-cake or corn,
She's clean in her jaws and full in her chine,
She's heavy in flank and wide in her loin.

"She's broad in her ribs and long in her rump,
A straight flat back without e'er a hump;
She's wide in her hips and calm in her eyes,
She's fine in her shoulders and thin in her thighs.

"She's light in her neck and small in her tail,
She's wide in her breast and good at the pail,
She's fine in her bones and silky of skin,
She's a nicker's delight and a butcher's within."

Inexperienced persons often suffer loss and disappointment by purchasing a stale milker, perhaps an old and wornout cow from some neighbor, by the disposal of which the seller was much accommodated. It is generally most advantageous to have a fresh five-year old beast in full milk, that is to say, with her calf a few days old by her side, or an animal nearly ready to calve. The sooner a cow is milked after purchase the better, since they are invariably stocked for sale; that is, their milk is suffered to remain perhaps for two days in order to distend the udder to the utmost by way of recommendation—a cruel and absurd trick by which these animals are tortured and many of them ruined annually by the inflammation of the milk-vein and the coring of the distended parts. It is pre-supposed that a dry and comfortable cow-house has been provided, containing a stall or two and a calf pen. The stalls should be paved with small stones, and slope gently towards one end, where there should be a clean run of a gutter to carry off the urine. In general far too little litter is allowed. The cow should have plenty of straw-bedding, and this when soiled should be removed and a fresh supply immediately afforded. In winter they should never be allowed to lie abroad or be out in damp and unseasonable weather, as that will chill them and dry up part of their milk; on the contrary they must be well housed in a well littered shed, in which they can repose in comfort with their loins dry; this is a matter of great consequence to their health. The only fastening for the cow when under cover, should be a chain to go round the neck, with the other end round an upright post, but easily movable up and down, and allowing room for the animal to shift her position. Some farmers appear to think that they do their duty towards their cows if they give them simply food and shelter; the floor of their habitation is filthy, the walls ragged and full of vermin, and the hides of the animals dusty or hardened with dirt. Persons who keep cows in such a state cannot be aware of the injury they are doing themselves. If the hide of a cow is not kept clean, it produces an irritation of the skin and causes her to lick herself, a habit which is very injurious, for the hairs taken into the stomach from off the hide, like the natural food of the animal—are rolled into a round, compact mass, and there is great danger of their accumulating so as to bring on disease if not death. "On the Continent of Europe cows are carried and dressed like horses; without going to this extreme, they ought to be well rubbed down with wisps of straw, and kept thoroughly clean. This will improve their health, and, consequently their milk, besides rendering their appearance more creditable to the family mansion. When you see a cow rubbing herself against a post, you may depend on it that the animal is ill-kept and wants a good scrubbing. Besides her milky indications it is important that the animal should be a quiet milker. It is not sufficient that a cow produces a large quantity of milk, unless she is disposed to yield it quietly and to allow it to be taken away. Tameness and docility of temper greatly enhance her value. Besides, one that is quiet and contented, feeds at ease, does not break over fences, or hurt herself or other cattle, will always yield more milk than one that is of a turbulent disposition. To render them gentle, they ought to be gently treated, frequently handled when young, and never struck or frightened.

[Written for the Dollar Newspaper—Philada.]

MAKING AND MANAGING MANURES.

The attentive reader of this, the Agricultural Department of the "Dollar Newspaper," will probably remember that, in the foregoing articles of this series on the making and managing of manures, we have shown that manure should be made and managed with the utmost economy and good judgment; that everything which has any manurial or fertilizing property should be carefully saved and applied to the enriching of the soil; and that especially, all the too common and careless ways, by which manure is usually and almost every where leached and bleached, and deprived of its fertilizing qualities, should be avoided by those who wish to have everything done up right, and to secure remunerating and enriching crops. The attentive readers of this paper will also recollect that, in order to give them some idea of the amount of loss resulting from the careless and wasteful modes of mismanagement referred to, or of the amount and additional profits which might be obtained by a more careful way of management, we gave the estimates of Secretary Flint as to these losses and attainable profits for the State of Massachusetts, and the estimate of Judge Buel as to the same—*actual* losses or *attainable* profits for the State of New York. The former estimates that the farmers of Massachusetts lose annually more than $1,125,000 by wastefulness in this single matter, or in other words, that their income or profits might be increased to that amount, by a reasonable degree of care and attention in the making and management of their manures. The latter (Judge Buell) estimated that the farmers of New York suffered an annual loss, independent of the certain and constant diminution in the products and value of their lands, of twelve millions of dollars ($12,000,000) in the single item of manures; or, in other words, that their incomes or profits might be increased to this amount by a greater degree of carefulness and good management in the single item of making and saving manure. In order to avoid such stupendous losses, or to secure the profits corresponding to them, it has been shown, in a previous article, that there are especially two ways in which this waste of manure usually takes place. The first of these is the exposure of manure in such a way that it is leached of its richest and best qualities by rains, melting snows, &c.; and the other is the escape of another portion of its fertilizing qualities by evaporation. It has been already shown how the former of these modes of loss might be avoided, viz, by hollowing out the barn yard in the form of a basin, or inverted watch-glass, and filling this hollow with straw, muck and other dry matters, so as to retain the liquids which would otherwise drain away and be lost; or, where this form of a barn yard cannot conveniently be secured, by making vats or tanks to receive the liquids which usually leach away from the manure heap after rains. It now remains to show how the usual loss and waste by the evaporation of ammonia and other gases from an exposed and fermenting manure heap may be avoided. But, as D. W. M. has pointed out so well almost all the requisites for this purpose in the issue of this paper for November 27th, 1861, the reader may refer to the communication over said signature in the number just named, and thus both writer and reader may be saved some repetition. For the sake, however, of new subscribers, and of those old ones who may not be able to lay their hands upon the number referred to, it may be proper to say that D. W. M., after remarking that he has tried various experiments to prevent the waste of manure by evaporation or escape of fertiling gases, very confidently asserts that covering the manure heap with charcoal dust is the very best, or most efficacious of all the means he has tried. He is of opinion, also, that where charcoal dust cannot be had, "wood ashes, even if leached, are a good substitute." Here he unfortunately labors under a mistake—a mistake, however, into which hundreds of farmers have fallen, and are still falling, through want of a sufficient knowledge of the chemical nature of the ashes, ammonia, &c. Ashes would set free the very gas (ammonia) which D. W. M. would use them to absorb and retain. To the employment of coal ashes, which he next speaks of as a covering to absorb the escaping gases of a fermenting manure heap, there is not the same chemical objection; but still their power to absorb and retain gases is very small and inconsiderable. Next after coal ashes D. W. M. recommends the sprinkling of plaster of Paris, or gypsum, over the manure heap every time that any is added to it. This direction is also objectionable on chemical grounds; for though the idea has been sanctioned by several writers, and even editors, in our agricultural periodicals, still it is a fact that gypsum cannot absorb ammonia in its dry state, and as it requires between 400 and 500 pounds, or pints of water, to dissolve one pound of gypsum, very little of it could be dissolved by the amount of moisture usually present in the manure heap. Mr. Harris, editor of the Genesee Farmer, is no mean authority in agricultural chemistry, and he says that gypsum must be in a state of solution before it will absorb ammonia or other gasses. But as the chemical objections to the employment and utility of gypsum in a dry state as an absorbent of ammonia, whether sprinkled in stables, as it has often been directed to be, or upon manure heaps, may form the subject of a separate communication, we refrain from any farther comments upon the recommendation of D. W. M. for the present. His last recommendation of swamp muck, forest leaves, rotten wood and weeds, as a covering to manure heaps, is perhaps the best on the whole, at least so far as muck is concerned. Some other methods of preventing loss by evaporation will be mentioned in our next article.

COULTIS.

[Written for the Dollar Newspaper—Philada.]

THOROUGHNESS IN FARMING.

The term thoroughness is an item of great account in the elements of good farming. Thoroughness will not allow the one-fifth of the wheat you sow upon the acre to lie on the surface to become a prey to the birds. Thoroughness will not stint your measure when you are stocking down a pasture or a meadow. It will fill the ground with grass, and thus forestall the thistle and the daisy, ragweed and mullen. Thoroughness will force the roller over the pasture, over the meadow, over the wheatfield; thoroughness will keep the orchard pruned; thoroughness will protect the cornfield against weeds, not only in May and June, but in August and September. Thoroughness will not allow the corn to be thrown, as it happens, three, five or seven grains in a hill, and often within the diameter of a copper, but will have it dropped with some care. Thoroughness will refer also to the seasonable performance of every labor. The thorough cultivator does not prune when buds and blossoms adorn his orchards; he nurses lambs neither in February nor in June; he sells his produce when he has a fair offer. The old adage shows him off in his true light; he takes time by the forelock; makes hay while the sun shines; locks his stable before his horses are stolen; stops pig holes before they are made; and finally, he exercises a watchful care over every good thing, and makes the best and most of it. Good farming costs less than poor. Now let us take a look at the farm of the man who is not a thorough cultivator. Look at his cornfields: what mean those frequent patches of grass? The ground was not half plowed and the corn was not half tended. Why those hills with only two stalks, with one and with none? The act of planting was only half performed, and accordingly, instead of seventy-five bushels per acre, the owner must be content to gather up twenty-five. Piles of rails lie rotting on the ground; various crops are planted and never tilled; hay is left in the rain and sun till it is fit for litter only, or stands unmown till the stalks become dry and hard, and half of the seed falls to the ground; corn fodder is seared by the frost, and potatoes freeze up in the hill; tons of material for manure bleach in the air; the summer contents of the barn-yard remain through the winter a wading place for the cattle, and fifteen per cent. of his stock perish for want of shelter. In view of these sad facts, and also of his broken down fences, his worn out fields, his animals poor and lank, and of his hay and grain in the stack yard depreciated by every sun and every storm, many a one is ready to exclaim, "the destruction of the poor is his poverty." Such a man must be ever in a hurry, ever out of breath; he is not free, he is a slave. Bad husbandry makes him a slave. The kind of husbandry described as that of the thorough cultivator has a favorable bearing upon his health. Are the varied exercises of the farm healthful? Is the sound sleep which they befriend healthful? Is a tranquil breast promotive of health? Does it quicken and purify a man's blood to smell the upturned soil, and to snuff the free country air? All these agents and influences are found on the well-managed farm. The right style of farming is connected with mental improvement. To develope the elements practically a man must have a knowledge of them; there is a call for study, and that too liberal study, not only study of observation of nature, but also by reading. Hence the importance of books on husbandry and of periodicals, and papers devoted to the labors of the soil. And here I would say that I take many agricultural periodicals and papers, but from none of them do I obtain so much *practical* knowledge, of value to the farmer, as from the "Dollar Newspaper." Ever drawing from these sources of knowledge the cultivator must also be ever experimenting. He must not be a man of theory alone, nor a man of practice alone, but a man of theory and practice. Rural occupations, rightly conducted, have a tendency also towards social and moral order and refinement. Human nature is less sophisticated on the soil than elsewhere, but the operations and scenes of farm life have a potency to calm passion, restrain waywardness, and to form the heart and manners, and habits, after the model of frankness, courtesy and kindness. The good farmer is a public benefactor. His operations, conducted in season, and in a thorough manner, contribute imminently to the general welfare; they delight the eye and cheer the spirit of every beholder, and they act on beholders by way of example, securing improvement to them likewise. And finally good farming insures respectability and honor to the man of the soil. Acting well his part, where all the honor lies, he attracts attention and interest. As you pass his premises, witness the air of neatness, order, thoroughness and thrift every where apparent. He may wear a brown face, and proffer you a brown hand; but let your silly dandy and your simpering coquette thinks of him as they please, he is a man in the eye of a man, and all great and good men will delight to honor him. Thus the good farmer elevates his profession and gives dignity to labor.

BUCKEYE.

Ohio, 1861.

[Written for the Dollar Newspaper—Philada.]

CORN CULTURE IN THE WEST.

The raising of Indian corn is by far the most profitable of any crop a farmer can turn his attention to in the West. It yields from fifty to seventy-five bushels per acre, and requires comparatively but very little work to cultivate. The cost of raising corn is not over 12½ cents per bushel. It usually brings 60 to 65 cents, and in Western Iowa from $1 to $2 per bushel. Corn ground should be plowed in the fall in order to insure early planting in the spring. One great cause of poor crops in the West for the past three or four years, has been in consequence of their having more ground than they could break up in time to plant early. Break your ground in the fall, and all you have to do in the spring is to "strike" it out, and you are ready for planting. If farmers would adopt this plan we would have no more complaints of late crops. The plowing season generally commences about the 20th of April. Corn should be planted as early as the 12th of May, at the latest. A great deal of corn is not planted till June, which does not give it time to mature before frost, which generally comes early in September. The varieties of corn best adapted to this latitude are the Large Yellow and the Medium Early White.

CINCINNATAS.

Lewis, Iowa, 1862.

[Written for the Dollar Newspaper—Philada.]

WHEAT ON OLD LAND

Allow me, through the columns of your valuable paper, to correct an error into which the greater part of our northern farmers have fallen. Since they have cleared the timber from their lands and commenced the pulverizing process of plowing, they think they cannot raise winter wheat. I have the opinion of many old farmers to that effect. They tell me that old mowing and pasture lands are liable to heave by freezing, thereby throwing the roots out of the ground. But I have found, by many experiments, that the theory is false. Let every farmer try the experiment for himself and he will be convinced that he can raise as good wheat from summer fallow on old ground as on new, and a more liberal yield. Commence plowing about the 20th of June; turn the turf over as flat as possible; let it remain so till after haying and harvesting are done, then put on the harrow and pulverize the soil as fine as possible. Don't be in too big a hurry to get over it, for at this season you have plenty of time. Then plow again, and, if it is not seed time, let it lay as before in the furrow until you want to sow, at which time, with a light harrow, level your ground and put on your seed—if the land be free from stumps, one and a half bushels to the acre. My time for sowing is invariably the last week in August, and by this process I never fail to raise a good crop. Try it, brother farmers, and, my word for it, you will not have to depend upon the Western States for your bread.

New Milford, Pa, 1862. A YOUNG FARMER.

[Written for the Dollar Newspaper—Philada.]

FRUIT GARDENS.

There are many farmers who might have many more of the luxuries of life if they would but take the trouble to procure them. Many wealthy farmers have scarcely any fruit except, perhaps, an orchard, while they might have an abundance. Every farmer who owns a farm should have a fruit garden. One can be made with little trouble and expense. Mark off about a quarter or a half an acre near your yard, in front if possible. Put a neat fence around it. In the fall manure it heavily with chip dirt, ashes and barnyard manure. Plow it deep, and, if you have a plow, subsoil. Harrow it level and make trenches two feet wide, two deep, and about six feet apart for the fruit. This can be done late in the fall when you can do little else. In the spring, plant a row of grape vines from cuttings, or procured from the nursery along the side opposite to the sun; next a row of Dwarf Pears or Downing's Mulberries; next two rows of Raspberries, one of native and one of the new varieties; one row of native Blackberries, and one of New Rochelle. Several rows of Strawberries, and as much more fruit as you wish to have. The walks between the rows should be nicely covered with slate or gravel. The cost will be trifling compared to the pleasure realized from it. You will have fruit of which you may be proud. Depend upon it, it will be a rich and profitable investment. If you don't believe it, try it.

June, 1862. CENTRAL PA.

[Written for the Dollar Newspaper—Philada.]

FARM GATES.

Posts for farm gates are always and rightly selected with enormous butts, but very often the excessive folly is perpetrated of burying the whole of the unhewn portion in the ground. But attaching a post most seriously between earth and air, and therefore as large an amount of substance should here be secured as possible. Therefore let the unhewn butt project at least six inches above the ground. If it be desirable that the gate should swing lower than that, a corner could be hewn out for its entrance, without much damage to the size of the butt at that place.

B.

Mantua, Va., 1862.

SCIENCE AND ART.

INVENTIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS.

IMPROVED ESCAPEMENT FOR CLOCKS.—This is an English invention, intended as a substitute for the Graham and recoil escapements. Instead of a scape wheel there is only a small disc, with a single ruby pin set in it, very near the arbor. The disc turns half round at every beat of the pendulum, and the pallets are both together on an arm, which may be the crutch of the pendulum, or may be in the pendulum rod itself; and they are so formed that the impulse is given chiefly by fiber action across the line of centres, and not obliquely, as in all the anchor escapements, and therefore with less friction. It is also a dead escapement, and by the simple addition to it of two long teeth or arms for the locking part—on the principle of the duplex escapement in watches—the friction on the dead parts of the pallets may be reduced almost to nothing in clocks intended for very accurate performance.

DYEING AND PRINTING TEXTILE MATERIALS.—A valuable invention has been brought forward in Scotland, which relates to the printing and dyeing of colors derived from analine, nitro benzole, napthaline, cinchonine and analogus substances. According to this plan, a fast dye is produced by passing cloth, prepared with stannate of soda or other suitable mordant, through a weakened solution of tannin, and, after the ordinary dyeing, subjecting it to the action of steam. After washing out the gummy matters and drying, the material may then be dyed with any of the colors specified above. Cloth or yarn, prepared as above directed, may be passed through an acid or other solution of tannin, mixed with the coloring matter to be used. Also, the mixed fabrics of cotton and worsted may be dyed by simply passing the cloth through soap after the preparation of sumac or other such agent.

VALUABLE APPLICATION OF EBONITE.—A recent and valuable application of ebonite, or hard india-rubber, is in the construction of nitrate baths and other apparatus for use in photography, and also for battery cells. In vessels of this material the nitrate of silver may, with suitable precautions, be boiled without affecting the solution. This process is sometimes necessary, and cannot be performed in vessels either of glass or gutta percha. The battery cells, indestructible in other respects, resist even the intense fluid heat produced by the addition of concentrated sulphuric acid to water. The advantage which is offered by vessels combining the resistance to fracture of gutta percha with the negative chemical properties of glass or porcelain, and capable of withstanding a temperature considerably above two hundred and twelve degrees without danger of fusing or softening, will be duly appreciated by photographers.

CHLORIDE OF LIME AS AN INSECTICIDE.—Dingler's Polytechnisches Journal says: "In scattering chloride of lime on a plank in a stable, all kinds of flies, but more especially biting flies, were quickly got rid of. Sprinkling beds of vegetables with it in the open air (to which it is said effectually preserves them from caterpillars, butterflies, mordella, slugs, etc. It has the same effect when sprinkled on the foliage of fruit trees. A paste of one part powdered chloride of lime, and one half part of soma fatty matter, placed in a narrow band round the trunk of a tree, prevents insects from creeping up it. It has even been noticed that rats and mice quit places in which a certain quantity of chloride of lime has been spread. This salt, dried and finely powdered, can no doubt be employed for the same purpose as flour of sulphur, and be spread by the same means."

NEW MODE OF AMALGAMATING ZINC.—To amalgamate zinc of electric batteries, M. Berjot uses the following process:—Dissolve seven ounces and three hundred and seventy-five grains of mercury in three pints and four ounces of strong nitric acid, so called from the first part, hydrochloric acid three parts—heat the mixture a little and add to it two pints and four ounces hydrochloric acid. It is sufficient to put the zinc a few seconds in this mixture to have it amalgamated. The process is very simple and not costly, the above amount of mercury being enough to amalgamate one hundred and fifty to two hundred cylinders of zinc.

FLAME EXTINGUISHERS.—Some new devices have been brought forward for this purpose. One consists of a compound liquid composed of alum, soda, borax, common salt and oil of vitriol, all combined together in water, and to be forced upon the fire by means of a pump, so as to extinguish the flame; this liquid is also capable of rendering cotton and linen fabrics uninflammable. Another and more rational method proposed, to effect this object, is that in which the inventor runs water pipes along the floors of a building, and these are fitted with pendant valves and nozzles, which, by means of an automatic connection outside, may be opened to make the water flow inside of the different stories.

COLORING IRON.—M. Thirault has been investigating the natural oxices of iron. In addition to ordinary rust, there is another oxide—the peroxide—but slightly susceptible of alteration. Iron covered with this latter is protected from rust even in moist air. This varnish is produced by the use of the following mixtures:—First, chloride of mercury and sal ammoniac; second, perchloride of iron, sulphate of copper, nitric acid, a cohol and water; third, per and protochloride of iron, alcohol and water; fourth, weak solution of sulphide of potassium. These solutions are successively applied, on the preceding one becoming dry; the third is applied twice, and a bath of boiling water follows the third and fourth. The shade of color is fixed by means of active friction by a piece of woollen goods, and with a little oil. The shade of color imparted is of a beautiful black, uniform in appearance. This process is extensively used in the manufacture of arms, and on different articles of hardware, &c.

STEEL-SURFACED RAILS.—The London Journal states that the use of Dodd's steel-surfaced rails is gradually becoming more extended, through the great durability which they are found to possess, rendering their application very economic. The mode adopted for steeling the rails is so simple that there is little addition to the cost, yet so great is the effect produced upon the rail, that it will last at least twice as long as an ordinary rail, and it is estimated that the saving upon each one hundred miles laid is equal to about half a million dollars. Several of the principal English railway lines have adopted these rails, as have also several in Scotland. The case-hardening furnace is easily worked, and in three days the surface of the rail, for the depth of an eighth of an inch, can by means of the process in question be converted into hard and durable steel.

LINES

Written by L. E. L. in the Album of a Friend, (Never before Published.)

[FROM THE SCOTSMAN.]

Alas! the vanity of mirth,
How often, glad no more,
We wear a face of mirth because
We have been glad before.

WORDSWORTH.

Farewell, farewell, and light farewell,
Is all you'll have of mine;
So easily as I'm resigned,
So easy I resign.

Why should I shed a single tear,
When none are shed for me;
Or sigh amidst a careless crowd,
Whose sighs should never be!

Why should I love? A fair exchange
Is all that I will give;
If I am loved, I grant for that
An equal love should live.

So, gay as any round your board,
I give you smile for smile;
Although I know that, taper like,
I flame but for a while.

Great fool shall miss it were to weep,
That when I am not there,
Another takes my vacant place,
And weeds me from your care.

I do not live amid the days
Utopia may have known;
But in a selfish age, where all
Must learn to live alone.

I hold our modern creed the best,
To its decrees resigned,
I go coolest when out of sight,
Best to be out of mind.

For what can memory do, but tell
How sweet the flowers were;
And when they fade, it dims them more,
To say they once were fair.

And what is love? A weary spell
To double every ill—
To make our best of happiness
Be at another's will.

No, careless laugh and wandering eye,
That knows no charm like change—
These are the only wings where with
Through this false world to range.

THE REBELLION.

Particulars of the White River Expedition.

CAPTURE OF FIVE REBEL FORTIFICATIONS.

DISTRESSING ACCIDENT TO THE GUN-BOAT MOUND CITY.

One Hundred and Fifty of her Officers and Seamen Scalded

THE REBELS FIRE ON SCALDED AND DROWNING MEN!

A correspondent of the Tribune gives the following account of the expedition to White river:

The expedition for White River, composed of the gunboats Mound City, Captain A. H. Kilty; St. Louis, Captain Wilson McGunnigle; Conestoga, Captain G. W. Brodgett, and Lexington, Captain J. W. Shirk, accompanied by the tug Spitfire, with the transports New National, White Cloud, and D. Musselman bearing Col. G. N. Fitch's 46th Indiana Regiment, departed from Memphis, it will be remembered, last Friday morning, June 13, for the purpose of capturing the transports the rebels had run up that stream. The fleet reached the mouth of White River, 170 miles from Memphis, on Saturday afternoon at 4 o'clock, at which time the tug Spitfire had captured the Clara Dolsen, as has been mentioned in a previous letter. The fleet remained at the mouth of the river until yesterday morning, and then cautiously ascended this narrow but deep stream, lying by last night, for the officers had been informed there was a battery or a series of batteries about 80 or 90 miles up the river.

THE FLOTILLA SHELLING THE WOODS.

At daylight this morning the gunboats continued their course, and when they arrived in the vicinity of the place where the enemy supposed the enemy's works to be, they began shelling the woods skirting the river, for the purpose of driving off any secession sharpshooters that might be hidden there—knowing from the narrowness of the stream that the treacherous and malignant foe might without difficulty pick off our men without exposing themselves to danger. They had shelled the woods for some two miles, when, in approaching a bend in the river, skirted on the south side by a bluff about sixty feet high, and extending along the shore to the distance of a mile, they were fired upon several times with guns that seemed from their report to be twelve and twenty pounders. The Mound City had the lead, closely followed by the St. Louis; the two wooden gunboats, Conestoga and Lexington, steaming behind, and the transports bringing up the rear with the Indiana troops, some five or six hundred, on board.

BEGINNING OF THE ENGAGEMENT.

Captain Kilty knew at once that this must be the enemy's fortifications, though some minutes elapsed before he could discover the exact locality of the hostile guns. The continued firing soon informed him of the position of the enemy, and he opened his own guns upon the rebels; the St. Louis following up the example with commendable promptness. The shot from the enemy flew all around our boats, but did not strike them, which is somewhat singular when we remember that the river at this point is not more than 200 feet wide, and that the Union vessels were in the middle of the stream, presenting an excellent mark to the gunners who were on an elevation, and not more than 600 feet distant.

The firing of the Mound City and St. Louis had its effect upon the fortification, which slackened fire, and the former gunboat then moved up, opposing the existing danger over, and leaving the other boat to complete the work. The Mound City had not proceeded more than a quarter of a mile when a heavy discharge was heard, and a huge round shot went howling over her deck, succeeded by a second of equal magnitude. This fortification was evidently formidable. Those shot were from 12 or 24-pounders, and the Mound City directed her attention to the new foe with spirit and alacrity.

POSITION OF THE SECOND FORTIFICATION.

The second fortification was in another bend of the same river on the same bluff and in a southwesterly direction, peculiarly situated, that it was hardly discernible. The first rebel shots were fired at a distance of perhaps three-quarters of a mile, and the Mound City, anxious to obtain a nearer view, steamed steadily forward, firing her bow guns whenever the smoke of the enemy's pieces was observable. The St. Louis, seeing that her companion had found new occupation, hastened to her aid, and greeted the enemy with a dozen shells in less than a minute's time. For twenty-five minutes the engagement was warm, though it was evident the foe had few guns, probably not more than two or three, though these were of great rapidity, and seemed better manned than those of the other fortification had been. Round shot and shells fell just above and just behind our gunboats, and often shrieked on by a few feet above their decks, but none of them struck the vessels. Our shot and shell seemed well directed, and appeared to fall frequently within the enemy's works, with what execution no one could determine.

INTERPOSITION OF COL. FITCH.

The cannonading was going on briskly, when Capt. Kilty learned through a signal (previously arranged between the naval and military) from Col. Fitch, who had landed his infantry below, that the gallant Indianians were about to march to the rear of the upper battery and attack the rebels in their intrenchments. The Mound City and St. Louis, therefore, ceased their fire after a few more shots, fearing that they might kill the brave men whose lives were pushing on stoutly toward the fortification, while Colonel Fitch encouraged them to be quick, as their surprise must be sudden and immediate.

HORRIBLE ACCIDENT TO THE MOUND CITY.

At this juncture, when everything was in suspense, and while the gunboats were waiting anxiously for the result of Col. Fitch's enterprise, a dreadful accident occurred. The Mound City was lying with her stern a little to the southern shore of the river, designing to turn in the stream, when a round shot, which proved to be a forty two-pounder shot, so called from the iron flanges at its side, struck her in her port side in the upper part of her casemates, between the first and second guns. The shot, which, from its elevation, was a plunging shot, passed through the iron-lined casemate, struck and exploded the steam drum, and lodged in the steward's pantry. The steam-drum exploded! What a scene of horror! In a moment the burning steam was pouring out in immense volumes, shrieking like an insatiable demon claiming its own. Through every mouth of space crept the vaporous devil, and transformed the healthful, vigorous man into an appalling corpse, or a more appalling sufferer. Imagine one of the gunboats, a large, square, closely-confined box, with no apertures but the ports, filled with burning steam, having no means of escape save through those ports and two or three skylights, with one hundred and seventy-five human creatures crowded together in the gun-rooms, and you may have some faint idea of the terrible and desperate situation of those brave and loyal men.

THE ENEMY FIRING INTO THE RESCUE BOATS.

Captain Bloodgett, of the Conestoga, knew at once what had happened when he saw the steam pouring out of the Mound City, and recognizing the enemy with their indescribable sounds. The North Carolina, regardless of consequences, shut their eyes to the chances, and attacked the work in gallant style, being supported by other regiments to the right and left. They gained their object, but it is said were unable to retain it, for the enemy's large brass howitzers dealt destruction among them, and it is reported that they fell back in admirable order, until fresh troops could be brought to bear upon the hordes of Pennsylvania, who, in thousands were pouring volleys upon them. At about this time, 1 P. M., some other reinforcements of Longstreet's corps arriving, turned the tide of battle for a time, but not permanently. Among others, St. Paul's (Louisians) battalion (three companies) appeared upon the scene, and looking to where the fire was hottest, cashed into the enemy in French style with the bayonet, and with their watchword, "Butler," upon their lips, drove everything before them, attacking odds in every instance, and not satisfying their vengeance until a most decimated.

REPULSE OF THE UNION TROOPS.

Our artillery at this juncture came into play, and, although the mud baffled human industry, patience and perseverance, some pieces of the Lynchburg (Indiana's, we believe) battery got in position at the entrance to Barker's farm, and played such havoc that the foe deserted their four large brass howitzers, unable to reply. But as the enemy's whole brigade camp (tents and all) were yet standing—as Barker's house, outhouse, &c., lay parallel to the road—and as a very large woodpile was within angles with it, the enemy, reinforced, crowded their breastworks, and from all these points kept up such a terrific fire that our men, appearing from the wood and on the road, were cut down as fast as discovered. Nothing daunted at the immense show of numbers of the foe, notwithstanding that our artillery, from the nature of the roads and ground, was incapable of advancing, our infantry appeared upon their flanks, regiment after regiment, drove them from their hiding places, captured their guns, fortifications, and entire camp, with great supplies, and drove the foe two miles from their encampment of the morning.

THEY ATTEMPT TO REGAIN THEIR LOST GROUND.

The greatest and hottest fire was about 4 P. M., when Latham's and Carter's batteries got into action, supported by the Fourth and Fifth South Carolina, First Virginia, Twelfth Mississippi, and other regiments. Having many valuables in camp, and it being well provided with tents, provisions (including 100 barrels of whisky), they made a terrific effort to retrieve the fortunes of the day, and Gen. Casey, their commander, moved up every available man to support or cover his flying columns. Tents, provisions, guns, ambulances, wagons, spare horses, and, in fact, everything stationed on the Williamsburg road, fell into our hands, and regiment after regiment of the enemy retreated to the Chickahominy faster than was ever witnessed before by old campaigners, leaving a large number of killed and wounded to the fortunes of war. Beaten and driven in disgrace from their camps and earthworks on the Williamsburg road, the enemy made a bold attempt to regain the lost ground by a vigorous flank movement down the York river railroad, thinking thus to retrieve the fortunes of the day, and place things as they were in the morning.

THE CONFEDERATES ENTIRELY SUCCESSFUL.

Heavy firing consequently commenced between 5 and 6 P. M., to the left of the Williamsburg road, near the seven-mile post, on the York River Railroad, but Oddaway's battery, and a brigade in waiting, received their advance with such ardor, that, without any preliminary, the Tennesseeans and others threw themselves upon the Federals, drove in their skirmishers, attacked the main force, and, up to the middle in water, assailed the battery before them, and took it with the bayonet. The fighting in this direction was not of long duration, but of great intensity and noise, Imboden's or Oddaway's field pieces being worked with remarkable precision and celerity, expediting the enemy's retreat within a short time. The enthusiasm of the men on the left of the Williamsburg road could not be restrained. Shout after shout rent the air, and it did not even subside when actually engaged themselves late in the evening; for, although not personally present with them, we could well mark their successful advance by the dying sounds of their wild shouts in the woods. Thus, then, when darkness had fairly set in upon the scene, the enemy's attempt upon our lines at two points had disastrously failed, and the foe driven three miles beyond their original position of the morning, with a total loss of twelve or fifteen guns, thousands of killed and wounded, and immense stores of every description.

THE SECOND DAY'S ENGAGEMENT.

Expecting a resumption of hostilities on Sunday, every preparation was made therefor, and at an early hour the enemy commenced to advance down York River Railroad, but General Mahone's brigade, Huger's command, met them and gallantly drove them backwards again, although manfully attempting to regain the position lost the evening before. We are sorry to add that, in this engagement, the Third Alabama lost Colonel Lomax and Adjutant Johnson, while the Twelfth Virginia (and the Richmond Grays particularly) lost many valuable men. The Ninth Virginia did not act so well. The enemy were particularly active with artillery, and accurately shelled the ambulance train on the York river road. Operations along the line yesterday were not of a very important nature, the enemy being intent upon preparing for their main attack to day (Monday.)

AN HOUR WITH TWO ANACONDAS.

Two natives of Africa, of the boa species, measuring respectively thirty and thirty-five feet, and weighing from one hundred and fifty to two hundred pounds each, have recently arrived in this city, and are now domiciled in large glass cases at No. 93 and 95 Union street, in charge of Captain John Sears, the well-known tamer of wild animals and of "pesky serpents" of different species. Their snakeships had not tasted food for nearly a month, when, yesterday, a company of scientific and other gentlemen were invited to witness the feeding of the reptiles. Among the spectators were Drs. Jacob Bigelow, J. Mason Warren, Clark, C. H. Gay and Samuel Cabot, Jr. of this city, Dr. A. H. Bancroft, of Charlestown, Rev. Dr. Lathrop, a lady, whose interest in the study of natural history overcame the remembrance of her sex to all descendants of the temperate of common mother, and a number of gentlemen from various walks of life. An attempt had been made, in the early part of the week, to feed the serpents, which, by the way, are the finest specimens ever seen in this city, but the largest of the pair was then in an angry mood, and darted his hideous head about so viciously, it was judged imprudent to insert the food.

Yesterday, however, both reptiles were passive, and a live hen having been placed in the case, the spectators awaited with uncommon interest the result which was anticipated. The fowl looked upon the serpents as a culprit does upon jury about to try the issue, &c. The reptiles returned the gaze, but not with the same disposition to decide the case according to the law and evidence. With their heads resting upon the folds of their glistening bodies, they seemed at first totally indifferent to the presence of their victim. The fowl fluttered about the edge, now perching upon the coiled forms of the serpents, as they relaxed and contracted their folds; then, standing motionless, gazing intently upon the fiery eyes of the tormentors.

The largest of the anacondas showed no disposition to seize its prey, the light to which both had been suddenly admitted, and the presence of the spectators, inducing, as was supposed, something like fear in its conduct. The smaller of the two, however, attempted several times to seize the fowl. Drawing back its head and contracting its body, it awaited until the chicken was still, when, as quick as lightning, with its mouth extended, eyes dilated, and its forked tongue protruding from its mouth, it darted forward, striking the fowl, but not fairly, as in its half blinded state it was unable to take certain aim at its victim. The serpent repeated the attempt several times, its appetite evidently sharpened by long abstinence, but up to the time when our reporter left it had not succeeded in clutching the chicken, which remained unhurt. It was evident that appetite was not strong enough in the serpents, and the spectacle of their feasting was postponed until it is otherwise. The process of seizing their prey and gnashing among the folds of their bodies, preparing to devour it, was one the anxious spectators were very desirous to see; and, judging by the reporter's own feelings what that of the others was, there was some disappointment that the feast did not come off as was anticipated.—*Boston Journal.*

SINGULAR WILL OF CAPTAIN LEVY.

The will of Captain Uri